MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JULY 1981

Iran

IRP Presidential Candidate--According to AFP, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has been chosen as the Islamic Republican Party (IRP) candidate in the presidential elections to be held later this month. Tehran radio reported that 60 candidates have announced they will run in the presidential elections.

Khomeyni Appoints Military Adviser--Tehran radio carried an order issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to Col Musa Namju appointing the latter his adviser on the establishment of a civil defense council and charging him with reporting weekly on the internal activities of the various offices of the armed forces.

Islamic Courts Legitimized--According to AFP, the Majlis has legitimized Islamic courts, giving them jurisdiction and wide powers to sentence opponents of the regime. AFP noted that the courts were not mentioned in the constitution drawn up after the Islamic revolution.

Court Sentences--According to Tehran radio, the Shirvan Islamic Revolution Court handed out prison sentences to 11 Mojahedin-e Khalq "agents." AFP, citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, said 7 people were each given 25 lashes in Kermanshah for publicly breaking the Ramadan fast.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In a telegram to Ayatollah Khomeyni, broadcast by Tehran radio, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces, Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi, reported that Iranian forces recaptured Nowsud following a series of mountain battles and street fighting. He said that the city is under intense fire from the Iraqi Armed Forces and counterrevolutionaries and that the mopping-up operations are continuing. AFP put the Iraqi death toll at 70 men. A related Tehran radio report explained that Nowsud had been captured after the revolution by Kurdish Democratic Party rebels who vacated the area and turned it over to the Iraqis during the war. An armed forces communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed that 85 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in a 7 July clash on the Ahvaz front. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command Communique, carried by INA, reported that 32 Iranians were killed in a clash in the Gilan-e Gharb region and that the Iranians shelled Basra from the Abadan suburbs.

Israel

Begin Interview--In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said he has the support of 61 Knesset members and plans to form a new Cabinet once the president entrusts him with that task. Questioned on the new government's intention to continue to establish settlements in the West Bank, Begin said the main task now is to add buildings and people. Referring to Lebanese Phalangist leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's announcement regarding future relations between Lebanese Christians and Israel, Begin asserted that the situation in Lebanon is very delicate. He indicated that he has asked U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to change his schedule, inviting him to visit Israel rather than Saudi Arabia after his stay in Beirut. Begin admitted, however, that he has not yet been notified that Habib would do so.

Sinai Multinational Force Agreement--Jerusalem radio reported that the draft agreement on setting up the multinational force that will supervise the Sinai peace agreement has been completed and received the approval of Prime Minister Begin. It will now be submitted to Egypt.

Lebanon

Israeli-Phalangist Relations--The Voice of Lebanon reported that leaders of the Phalangist-dominated Lebanese Front met and reviewed the results of their recent contacts with President Ilyas Sarkis and with U.S. officials in Washington. Afterward Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil stressed that his party does not want to fall under the "mandate" of Israel and has no intention of becoming an "alien body" in the Arab world. He reiterated that the purchase of arms from Israel by the Lebanese Front has been exploited by its opponents to portray the war in eastern Lebanon as a war against Israel and he pointed out that the Phalangists had earlier purchased arms from the Palestinians. He said that the arms now being used in both eastern and western Beirut should be handed over to the legal authorities. Al-Jumayyil expressed hope for the success of the Arab followup committee's efforts and affirmed his willingness to participate in anything that would help attain peace with dignity and honor.

According to the Voice of Lebanon, both President Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan have welcomed the Lebanese Front's stated willingness to dissociate itself from Israel. KUNA reported that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, foreign minister and Arab followup committee member, also welcomed Pierre al-Jumayyil's announcement on the subject. However, the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV said the Phalangists may be paying lipservice to the idea of cutting ties with Israel without any intention of fulfilling the commitment. They wish to play down their relations with Israel, which have recently become too overt, maintaining them in secret, it claimed. MA'ARIV said the Phalangists will want to be able to renew their pact with Israel if necessary so as to avoid falling into any trap set for them by the Syrians. The Israeli newspaper expressed distaste for such an arrangement, whereby the Lebanese Christians could loosen or tighten their ties with Israel at will, but Israel would remain involved and committed under all conditions. If the Phalangists are willing to rely on the Sryians' honesty and the Saudi Arabians' generosity, MA'ARIV said, Israel should review its guarantees to them.

Security Situation--According to the Voice of Lebanon, militiamen in western Beirut disrupted government-sponsored attempts to reopen the Sodeco-Al-Bastah road linking both parts of the capital by sniping at bulldozers and cars and by blocking the road with barrels.

Syria

The Voice of Lebanon reported that another Soviet expert has been assassinated by the Muslim Brotherhood in Aleppo and that others have been threatened with death if they do not leave Syria.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CHATTI CONDEMNS WESTERN MEDIA DISTORTION OF ISLAM

NC081307 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Paris, 8 July (AFP)--Western societies' false image of Islam as a fanatical and narrow culture makes meaningful communication with the Moslem world impossible, Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, said today. Mr Chatti spoke at an international symposium on Islam organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] here.

Islam's image in the West is a false one in which the religion is equated with morbid fanaticism, its discipline to narrow mindedness and its laws to despotism and barbarism, Mr Chatti said. He blamed the Western media for both incompetence and deliberate distortions. But, he continued, Islam really stands for "joy, hope and freedom," things which humanity needs very much today.

It was natural that the efforts of Moslem nations to stand up for their rights made some countries uneasy, Mr Chatti said, but he stressed that Islam was a "force in the service of a better world order."

The symposium is to end on Saturday.

COMMUNIST PAPER SEES POSSIBLE STRIKE IN GOLAN

JN071557 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Israeli Communist Party mouthpiece AL-ITTIHAD confirmed today that residents of the Golan Heights are determined to adopt all measures capable of preventing Zionist occupation authorities from implementing their oppressive procedures in the Golan Heights. The paper added that the residents will declare a general or partial strike if enemy procedures do not stop and if five arrested Druze leaders are not released. The five leaders now under arrest are Shaykh Kamal Abu Salih, Shaykh Mahmud as-Safadi, Shaykh Ahmad 'Awad Qabalan and Hayil Abu Jabal. [four names as heard] These five leaders have been arrested on charges of instigating citizens against the occupation and boycotting all those who possess the Israeli identity card.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES NEW VOLUNTEERS FROM IRAQ

NC081107 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Yesterday evening Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with the first group of Palestinian university graduate volunteers from Iraq. Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], a number of Palestinian Liberation Army officers and cadres attended the meeting.

Brother Abu 'Ammar, addressing the new graduate volunteers, said: Your presence among us increases our pride. In the future you will know the profound meaning of this presence. Your arrival comes at a time when Begin is insolently saying that he is preparing a blow for the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We in the Palestinian revolution are proud of our cohesion with these Lebanese nationalist forces, with whom we are fighting at this dangerous, bad and difficult Arab juncture a fierce revolutionary battle that is one of our Arab nation's greatest battles in modern times.

The commander in chief continued: You have come at the most difficult time because the onslaught and the challenges are great. Although you are many, your number is not important. Your presence, in itself, confirms to the fighter who has been in Qal'at ash-Shaqif for 10 months facing the biggest U.S. force and the Israeli [word indistinct] that he is not alone in the Marathon Pass.

Brother Abu 'Ammar concluded his address by saying: Our road is long, difficult and hard. We are not defending Palestine and the Arab nation alone, but are shouldering for that nation the military weight of the U.S.-Israeli might in the Middle East. The river of blood, which has never ceased since the outset, will not cease until victory is attained.

Last night, Brother Abu 'Ammar broke his fast with the Al-'Asifah (?Ajnadin) forces. After the meal the commander in chief explained the latest developments in the situation in the area and the means to confront the Zionist-imperialist onslaught against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in southern Lebanon.

FATAH OFFICIALS MEET LEBANESE NASIRITE OFFICIAL

JN081605 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] In Beirut Brother Majid Abu Sharar and Qadri, Fatah Central Committee members, met with Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement, Al-Murabitun, at noon today.

During the meeting developments in the political situation in the Lebanese arena, the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian issue in particular were reviewed.

Speaking after the meeting, Brother Abu Sharar said that the talks dealt with the situation on the Lebanese arena and the new factors that have been introduced as well as the means of further bolstering the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist coordination to confront the new U.S. move and design which Philip Habib is bringing to the area and which is intended to strike at the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist presence and to create circumstances that may force the Arab Deterrent Forces to withdraw from Lebanon. Brother Abu Sharar added that this new design intends most of all to create a new Israel in the area through the Phalangist Party.

'ARAFAT VISITS AL-'URQUB AREA IN LEBANON 8 JUL

NC090834 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Jul 81

[Text] Yesterday Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made an inspection tour of the joint forces positions in the Al-'Urqub region. Brother Abu 'Ammar was received by Brother Lt Col Nasr Yusuf, deputy commander of the Al-Yarmuk forces, and also by the political commissioner of these forces. He then reviewed a guard of honor.

In the evening Brother Abu 'Ammar attended a fast-breaking dinner in 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar village in the presence of Reverend Andrews Mu'ayqil and Shaykh Muhammad Qasim al-Qar'un. Brother Abu 'Ammar then spoke, praising the inhabitants of 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar who have opened their hearts to us as well as their homes. He then explained to the audience the aims of his Arab tour, saying that he had demanded that an Arab summit conference be convened to confront the serious challenges facing the Arab nation.

Referring to Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: In 1967 we lost territory but when the reactor was attacked, we lost our willpower. He noted that he had made efforts to clear the atmosphere between Iraq and Syria as a step toward strengthening the unity of the Arab rank against the U.S.-Israeli enemy.

The political commissioner of the Al-Yarmuk forces also delivered a speech in which he welcomed Brother Abu 'Ammar on behalf of the fighters.

KUWAIT

PHALANGIST 'NONDEALINGS' WITH ISRAEL WELCOMED

LD081500 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA)--Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad welcomed today the announcement by Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil on non-dealings with Israel. Replying to press questions, the Kuwaiti diplomat said he is welcoming the new development in Lebanon in his capacity as member of the followup committee. The move is a clear indication that the disputing parties in Lebanon had realized it is now time for stability to be regained, Shaykh Sabah said. The conflicting parties who have been fighting for the last seven years seem to be aware of the need for peace and national unity.

Commenting on a reported call by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis that the meeting of the followup committee be brought forward to July 17th. Shaykh Sabah said [word indistinct] was notified to us. "We have (?only) agreed to meet whenever and (?wherever) the necessity arises," Shaykh Sabah said, adding, notification for such a meeting may arrive today.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH SUPPORTS PHALANGIST POLITICAL SOLUTION

PM090916 Jidda AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 6 Jul 81 p 3

[Editorial: "The Arab Followup Committee"]

[Excerpts] The hope of the Arabs, especially the Lebanese, that the Arab followup committee would a practical solution to the Lebanese crisis has been rising now that the process of narrowing the gap between parties' political views, which are relatively different in some cases and totally different in others, appears so far to be proceeding successfully--which now makes it possible for leaders of these parties to meet in a more tranquil atmosphere conducive to agreement.

The political differences between even the staunchest political adversaries--the Phalangists on the one hand and their Lebanese opponents, Syria on the other--appear solvable and no longer demand use of the gun. While Syria and the Lebanese parties which support it have been insisting that the Phalangists alone sever their relationship with Israel, the Phalangists have rejected this formula--the formula that they alone boycott Israel--and have demanded a statement severing relations with Israel that would be signed by the Phalangists and all other Lebanese parties. It is our estimation and indeed our conviction that the Arab followup committee is capable of finding the best formula for settlement of this political disagreement. However, we say: It is true that the Lebanese Christian Phalangists have alone been accused of open dealings with Israel, but no one knows what has been taking place in secret; no one can ascertain if one party or another has had secret contacts with Israel or will have such contacts in the future.

Since the ulimate goal of the Arab followup committee is to end forever the black chapter of the history of the Lebanese crisis, to open a chapter of totally new relations and to ensure that no existing or possible future Lebanese party will deal with Israel, we prefer the Phalangist demand for an official statement signed by all Lebanese parties declaring that they will not deal with Israel now or in the future. Such a declaration would ensure that all the present Lebanese parties as well as any party or parties which future political developments might produce would be committed not to deal with Israel, the common enemy of Lebanon and all the Arab countries. We believe however, that all this is up to the Arab followup committee, which has our full confidence.

IRAQI DIPLOMATS REPORTED LEAVING CAIRO 9 JUL

NC091025 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 9 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (AFP)--Five of the six Iraqi diplomats in Cairo, including the head of the mission, Walid 'Abd ar-Rida will leave here today at the request of the Egyptian Government, Iraqi sources said here.

Egyptian officials denied the diplomats had been ordered out. "We have simply asked them, for internal security reasons, to change these five people," one Egyptian officials said.

The diplomats' scheduled departure today comes at the expiry of a deadline set by Cairo for them to go, the Iraqis said.

The Iraqi mission in Iraq [as received] will not be closed by the incident. Yugoslavia has looked after Iraqi relations since the ending of diplomatic links between Cairo and 17 other Arab capitals after the Camp David peace agreement with Israel.

The request for the diplomats to go ends a period of warmer relations between Cairo and Baghdad in recent months.

Early this year Egypt supplied Iraq with military equipment needed for its war with Iran, and President Anwar as-Sadat recently praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for declining to implicate Egypt in Israel's bombing raid on an Iraqi nuclear centre three days after Mr. as-Sadat met Israeli Premier Menahem Begin.

CABINET DISCUSSES SINAI FORCE, NAIROBI SUMMIT

NC081340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Excerpt] At its meeting today under the chairmanship of Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak the Cabinet discussed subjects pertaining to foreign policy. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reviewed the steps which have been acomplished regarding the formation of the multinational peacekeeping force between Egypt and Israel. He said that this force will be a substitute for the UN security force, and that Egypt, the United States and Israel will bear its expenses. The force, he said, will be equipped with traditional weapons in its capacity as peacekeeping force. The force will have a director general for a 4-year term and a commander in chief for a 3-year term.

'Ali then referred to the recent African summit conference in Nairobi and the success of the Egyptian diplomacy during the conference in precluding any draft resolution criticizing the Camp David accords.

ISLAMIC, ARAB LEAGUE'S NAWFAL VIEWS IRAN SITUATION

NC081557 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Dr Sayyid Nawfal, the secretary general of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples, has commented on the developments of the situation in Iran. He said that it is exactly identical to the situation in Afghanistan which ended with the Soviet occupation in 1979. He said that the league appeals to all the Islamic and Arab states to take note of what is happening in Iran and what the deteriorating situation there could lead to, particularly concerning the security of the Gulf states and the Middle East.

Dr Nawfal added that the secretariat general of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples has sent messages to the delegations of the Islamic and Arab peoples calling on them to express their views on the deviationist practices of the Iranian revolution and drawing attention to the gravity of the present situation in Iran.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 392

JN081657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces continue to inflict human and material losses on the Persian enemy in the various operations sectors all along the front. Communique No 392 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that total enemy losses during the past 24 hours were 47 killed and various types of military equipment destroyed.

The text of Communique No 392 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operations sectors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units struck with all kinds of weapons enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region, forcing them to retreat after sustaining 32 killed. Our units destroyed one vehicle and one ammunition stockpile in the same region.
B. One killed and one ammunition stockpile destroyed in the Mehran region.
C. Five killed in the Dezful region.
D. Seven killed and two armored personnel carriers, one vehicle, one ammunition stockpile and two observation posts destroyed in the Shush region.
E. One of our patrols removed a serviceable Chieftain tank which the enemy had left behind in previous battles in the no man's land in the Ahvaz region.
F. Two killed and one infantry position and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses are 47 killed and 1 infantry position, 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 2 vehicles, 3 ammunition stockpiles and 3 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Four vehicles and one mortar were damaged.
C. The Persian enemy shelled Basra this afternoon with heavy guns from the Abadan suburbs.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 July 1981

STATEMENT ISSUED ON GAMBIAN MINISTER'S VISIT

JN081858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)--Iraq and Gambia have asserted that peace, stability and normal relations of cooperation, particularly among neighboring states, require mutual respect for the states' inalienable rights and absolute adherence to the principles of sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. In a joint statement issued in Baghdad and Banjul following Gambian Foreign Minister Lamin Kiti Jabang's visit to Iraq, the two sides also asserted that just peace can be achieved only through the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's full rights in their Palestinian homeland and their right to establish their independent state on their entire national soil under the PLO. Gambia reiterated its condemnation of the treacherous Zionist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and described it as a criminal deed which again reveals racist Zionism's aggressive stand toward the Arab nation.

The two countries strongly condemned the Zionist entity's decision to annex Jerusalem and considered this decision to be an act flouting international laws and conventions. They also condemned the two Camp David agreements and the treaty based on these agreements, which constitutes a plot against the Arab nation and an attempt to split Arab ranks and keep the Arab territories under Zionist occupation. The two sides condemned the terrorist Zionist aggression against Lebanon. This aggression is part of the imperialist maneuvers aimed at liquidating the Palestinian resistance and is a violation of Lebanon's security and territorial integrity.

The two sides affirmed their support for all efforts aimed at keeping the Indian Ocean and all its natural extensions as an area of peace devoid of foreign imperialist influence and bases in order to preserve the rights and interests of the peoples in this region.

The two sides discussed the current situation on Iraq's eastern border and the regrettable state at which this situation has arrived. The two sides praised the good offices extended by the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned group and the United Nations to guarantee and strengthen security and stability in the region. The Gambian side expressed its profound appreciation for Iraq's positive and constructive response to these good offices. The two sides affirmed that the preservation of security and stability in the Arab Gulf region is a responsibility which falls on the states in this region without any foreign interference. The two sides reiterated their call for ending the war and for reaching a solution guaranteeing the inalienable rights of all sides.

The Republic of Gambia denounced the terrorist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear research center, an act which again reveals Zionism's aggressive nature and which was carried out with the intention of depriving the Arab nation of its right to progress by having nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. This flagrant action directly violates the rights of all peoples to scientific progress and social development. The Iraqi side welcomed this stand of solidarity expressed by the Republic of Gambia.

The two sides stressed the need for promoting Arab-African cooperation and affirmed that Arab-African ties go deep in history, continue in the present and will have more importance in the future in view of the Arab-African unity of struggle for national liberation, social progress and joint confrontation against Zionism and racial discrimination and segregation. The two sides affirmed their desire to continue the free policy followed by Iraq and Gambia, a policy based on independence and the Nonaligned Movement's policy of realizing national liberation and social progress.

The two sides agreed on complete cooperation in order to guarantee the success of the seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference to be held in Baghdad in 1982. They affirmed their determination and desire to strengthen the role and activity of the Nonaligned Movement and to establish a new international order for political and economic relations among the world's states and peoples. The two sides welcomed the increasing support given to President Saddam Husayn's proposal for establishing a long-term world fund for assisting the developing countries to overcome the effects of inflation. In accordance with this proposal, the industralized states make contributions to this fund that are proportionate to the inflation which the industralized states export to the developing countries. The oil-producing developing states would also contribute to this fund.

BAGHDAD SCORES TUDEH PARTY 'ALLIANCE' WITH CLERGY

NC071340 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] The disgraceful clergymen who consider themselves to be tutors of Islam (?colluded) with Iran's Tudeh Party in the hope of making the destruction of Iran easier.

Tudeh Party Chairman Kianuri has clung to the clergy so strongly "that there is a possibility that he may become president." But so far as Khomeyni and the clergy are concerned, they have only one objective, "and it is not of great importance if the atheist Kianuri does become president." That which is of interest to Khomeyni and his clergy is how to bring a puppet to power. "And who else but Kianuri is eligible for this?"

We should wait and see what "odd beast a crossing between the treacherous clergy and the traitorous Tudeh will produce." We should wait and see if the people of Iran will remain silent in the face of all that is happening, and has happened, in Iran. It is hard to believe that the people's rage will die down "because each and every Iranian knows that enduring the clergy is tantamount to destroying everything Iran has." The people of Iran are counting the seconds until the time comes when "people will take to the streets and hang any cleric they see--and this is what is going to happen." The day of the Iranian people's victory is near.

BAGHDAD URGES IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO DESERT

NC071316 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpt] Iraq has become a place of asylum for thousands of Iranian officers and NCO's. (?Today) units of the armored, ground, logistics and air force divisions, pilots, technicians, the army air corps and many other groups are leaving their garrisons and coming to Iraq. The number of people seeking refuge in Iraq is increasing (?with the intensification of the internal crises in Iran).

You can come to Iraq by using any military (?vehicle--aircraft, helicopter, tank,) [word indistinct] and armored vehicles--to join your brothers in the armed forces who are here in Iraq. Hoist a white flag as a sign of peace and fraternity when meeting any unit, group or armed forces personnel. You shall be welcomed by us.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received here today the credentials of Mauritanian Ambassador Mohamed Fadil Ould Daddah, Finnish Ambassador (Paul Rolf Hukan) and Hungarian Ambassador (Zoltan Piere Seleni). [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Jul 81 JN]

AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND--Iraqi Ambassador to Thailand Ahmad ash-Shawi today presented his credentials to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 81 JN]

MAURITANIAN TV STATION--The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry has signed a contract with a French firm for the building of a television station in Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. The station's construction, equipment and transmitters will be financed by Iraq within Iraq's support to brotherly countries. The French firm will train the Mauritanian technicians who will operate and maintain the station. [Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 7 Jul 81 JN]

SARKIS, BUTRUS VIEW ARAB FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES

NC071857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today met with Abbot Bulus Nu'man and a delegation representing the grouping of the independent Maronite deputies. The grouping sources said that the president explained to his visitors a certain aspect of the developments, saying: If the Lebanese question has many ramifications and is thorny, this does not exempt the regime from establishing a practical concept to end Lebanon's ordeal. We have included our concept in a complete dossier, which we submitted to the Arab followup committee. It includes several points which can be summed up as the question of dealings [with Israel], deployment of the army, organization of the work of the Arab Deterrent Forces, agreements with the Palestinian resistance, the effectiveness of the regime in extending its presence to all Lebanon and the 14 principles of national accord.

We greatly hope that the Arabs will become convinced by our concept to begin a solution to the problems on the basis that the continuation of violence will not solve any problems in Lebanon.

The president added: The visit of Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil yesterday came to contribute to the facilitation of the difficult tasks. The foreign minister has summoned representatives of the Arab followup committee to meet with him so he can brief them on the new situation. We hope that there will be a full response to and understanding of our reality that would, perhaps, enable us to begin the new march to which all sincere Lebanese aspire.

At 1700 today the foreign minister met for 1/2 hour at the palace with the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors and with Syrian Colonel Muhammad Ghanim. Following the meeting, the foreign minister said: The purpose of my meeting with the ambassador members of the Arab followup committee was to brief them on certain developments that took place after winding up the committee's meeting at the level of the ministers. This was an occasion to convey to them an oral message, from the president of the republic to their ministers, which embodies a positive outlook on the possible progress of the future activities of the followup committee. Undoubtedly, the atmosphere is encouraging. It is the result of the efforts that were exerted by more than one side in the Lebanese Government and to a large extent by the ambassador and minister members of the followup committee. I seize this opportunity to thank them all for their efforts to help Lebanon.

SARKIS BRIEFS CABINET ON ARAB FOLLOWUP ISSUES

NC081408 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Excerpt] The Cabinet held its weekly meeting today under President Ilyas Sarkis and in the presence of the prime minister and ministers.

After the meeting the acting director of the Cabinet, Safiq Munayminah, made the following official statement:

His Excellency President Sarkis briefed the Cabinet on the results of the meetings of the Arab followup committee and on current developments.

President Sarkis expressed his hope that the new emerging positive stands will prepare the atmosphere so that a further relaxation of the security and political situation can be achieved and thus give impetus to the work of the Arab followup committee and contribute to its tackling of the issues submitted to it.

His Excellency President Sarkis also briefed the Cabinet on the following principal issues outlined in the working paper that has been submitted to the Arab followup committee: The issues of dealing with Israel, national accord, constitutional and political reforms, relations and agreements with the Palestinian resistance, special relations with Syria, the situation in southern Lebanon and extending the state's sovereignty throughout southern Lebanon, rebuilding and qualifying the army and assigning to it security tasks within the framework of the scheduled defense policy and the Arab Deterrent Forces and programming its tasks.

The Cabinet then moved to discussing topics on its agenda and adopted suitable decisions.

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS AL-JUMAYYIL STATEMENT ON ISRAEL

NC072030 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed his hope that the stand which the commander of the Lebanese forces conveyed to the palace last night will be useful and helpful in solving the Lebanese crisis. The prime minister added: Undoubtedly, we attach great importance to this issue [the Phalangist dealings with Israel] at both the Lebanese and Arab levels. A reassurance on this is basic. Rather, it is a basic rule in the existence of Lebanon, the sons of which have sacrificed much to prevent this homeland from becoming a stepping stone or a headquarters for colonialism. It was on this basis that the French mandate was terminated.

VOL REPORTS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

NC081310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Reports from Syria say that a Soviet expert was killed in Aleppo and that Soviet experts have been told to leave Syria or else they too will be killed.

Explosions and clashes between intelligence men and special units with Muslim Brotherhood members are continuing. Scores of people have been detained on charges of financing the Muslim Brotherhood.

We have received information that the Syrian special units at dawn today, Monday, [as heard] stormed the Al-Mukibbu locality in Aleppo, besieged it and imposed a curfew in the area. The forces then made house searches and detained 20 people on charges of financing and helping the Muslim Brotherhood. The fate of these detainees is still unknown.

In the Bustan Pasha locality, an explosive charge went off in a car parked inside the water company, killing five workers and the driver and causing heavy material damage. Following this incident a Syrian Army force besieged the locality to search for Muslim Brotherhood members.

Yesterday, Tuesday, a Soviet expert was assassinated in the Tilal locality while shopping. The Soviet experts in Syria have received threats from the Muslim Brotherhood, telling them to depart Syria or else they will be killed.

In Al-Kallasah, the Al-Hal market, Bab an-Nayrab and Karm Muyassar, known as the western part of Aleppo, explosions occur day and night, keeping the people of the area in a state of panic.

The city of Homs, particularly the road from Homs to Aleppo, is witnessing a state of tension because of increasing roadblocks and the flow of intelligence men and special units into the area.

HADDAD COMMENTS ON SYRIAN RULE, 'ARAFAT, ARMY

NC081136 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] This morning free Lebanon commander Major Haddad made the following comments on some current topics:

1. It is both funny and ridiculous that [Syrian Social Nationalist Party leader] In'am Ra'd should call for the opening of all Arab fronts to fight Israel on the same lines of the Syrian decision to open the Syrian front for fedayeen action. This is so because the pawn In'am Ra'd has forgotten that Syria has always been the first to ask for extending the mandate of the UN emergency force into the Golan in order to avoid a clash with Israel and because the 'Alawite regime forbids any saboteur in Syria from wearing military camouflage uniforms. The 'Alawite decision to open Syria's borders for the saboteurs has been only for purposes of propaganda and one-upmanship and the saboteurs are well aware of this. If this is not so, can Ra'd tell us if he has heard of any saboteur operation against Israel that has come from Syria? What Al-Asad meant by his decision has been the opening of the Syrian borders for the saboteurs to go in the direction of Lebanon in order to get rid of them completely and to destroy Lebanon--no more, no less.

2. I do not believe that the quadripartite committee's efforts have failed completely: If it has not succeeded in restoring independence and sovereignty to Lebanon, it has at least succeeded in demonstrating to the world the reality of the struggle in Lebanon as a struggle between the Syrians and the occupying saboteurs on one hand, and the Lebanese on the other, and that the problem is not a domestic one, as the prevailing belief has been in the past.

3. Yesterday the official Syrian newspapers carried reports of threats and promises to use force if the Phalangists do not sever their relations with Israel. On our part, we ask the world: What right has the Syrian regime to impose its view on the Lebanese or on a group of them by force or anything else. Isn't this behavior clear proof that the Syrian regime is behaving as the occupier and the absolute master in Lebanon? Such being the case, we ask the Syrian regime to sever its relations with the Soviet Union, or else we will be forced to compel it to sever them by force.

4. What is both funny and sad is to hear saboteur [PLO Political Department chief] Faruq Qaddumi addressing the European states and evaluating their role on behalf of all the Arab states when all the Arab states and Arabic-speaking states prefer to hear the name of Satan a thousand times than to hear even once the name of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Qaddumi or their saboteurs. Let Abu 'Ammar and Qaddumi know that their allegations and boasts will not mislead anyone, because the outside world now knows that they are no more than mere buffoons.

5. Major Haddad has made the following appeal: My brother soldiers, please remember that Syria will not be satisfied with you unless you have worked for its occupation. That is why it is striking you on the contact lines in Beirut and denying you the right to be present in Zahlah, western Beirut or in any part of its areas of occupation. If Syria is satisfied with your coming to Kawkaba and Arzun, this is only because you have come to be used against the interest of your homeland and in the interest of the Syrian occupation. God has afflicted you with a weak political leadership that has been hired in the interest of the Syrian occupier. My brothers, regarding this tragic reality, the choice remains with you to decide whether you will work in the interest of Syria and the saboteurs by remaining where you are or work in the interest of your homeland by rising against your current bitter reality and joining your army, the army of free Lebanon.

PDRY CHAIRMAN MAKES DEPARTURE STATEMENT 7 JUL

JN071931 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Excerpts] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1600 today at the end of a 1-day visit to Syria. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the PDRY ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff and the heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Damascus saw the PDRY president off.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent prior to his departure, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: I was greatly pleased to meet my brother President Hafiz al-Asad. What satisfies us is that our visit was successful and our talks very fruitful, reviewing in detail the developments in the Middle East and discussing the means to consolidate the steadfastness of our Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland for the confrontation of the threats by imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. We also agreed on strengthening all forms of cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries and among the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation countries and also among the progressive forces in this region. We discussed other issues of mutual interest.

We have emerged from our meeting with our brother President Hafiz al-Asad with very positive impressions on strengthening Syria's position, as it is the principal base that is confronting the Zionist enemy and shouldering the basic burdens in the battle with the enemy. We have reiterated to our brother President Hafiz al-Asad, and we can say it to the Arab masses as well, that the PDRY will continue to be sincere to its pan-Arab causes, as it is to its national causes. While we are proud of Syria's principled stands on our fateful causes, its continued support for the Palestinian revolution, its confrontation of all attempts to partition Lebanon and the continued Zionist threat to the Lebanese people, we shall continue to support Syria. We shall always support the Syrian people's steadfastness and that of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and all the Arab people and their forces in all circumstances.

It is also important to note that during our fraternal talks with His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, we reviewed international developments and their effect on events and developments in the Arab region. Our viewpoints were identical on the need to strengthen our friendship and intensify our meetings with all the revolutionary forces in the world, particularly with the socialist bloc, given the face that these forces, headed by the Soviet Union, are the strategic ally and the loyal friend of our Arab people.

TISHRIN SEES U.S. EXPLOITATION OF LEBANON CRISIS

JN090717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "What the United States Wants and What the Arabs Want," TISHRIN cites statements by U.S. officials in Israel to the effect that the U.S. Government will deliver to Israel 10 F-16 planes within the coming few days. TISHRIN asserts that these planes will not be the Washington government's sole shipment to the Middle East within the coming days. These planes will be accompanied by another shipment: President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib, who will be visiting the region for the third time.

The two U.S. shipments are well understood in the region. The paper adds that there is no doubt that the United States is clinging to its big stick, Israel, which it is intent on using as an instrument of pressure to threaten the Arabs, who reject the U.S. schemes and viewpoints.

Begin's new threats to attack Syria and its forces in Lebanon prove the extent of the coordination and harmony between the U.S. and Israeli moves. They also prove the extent of the association between Israel's escalation of tension and Habib's visit to the region and the association between resuming Habib's mission and the desire to expand the framework of this mission to include the Middle East issue as a whole--which Reagan discussed with his envoy, according to White House spokesman Speakes--rather than the Lebanese issue alone.

TISHRIN says that the Arabs are not unaware of the persistent U.S. desire to exploit the situation in Lebanon in the U.S. interest and to exploit joint Arab efforts to facilitate Habib's mission in the Arab arena. Speakes disclosed this when he said that Habib is encouraged by the progress achieved so far, adding that in actuality, the Arab League and others are continuing their endeavors to reach a solution.

Habib might not be the worst of the U.S. diplomats to have visited the region, but what can he or other Americans offer? The paper says: President Reagan and General Haig both defined very clearly what the United States wants from the region, namely the Arabs' unity with Israel in confronting the threat of Soviet infiltration in the region and acceptance that the Arab Gulf and oil region is a requisite for U.S. national security.

This is what the United States wants; there has been no change in this respect. Indeed, all the occurrences in the region and the UN Security Council show there is great U.S. determination to continue attempts to impose hegemony over the region either through Israel's power or through temptations, intimidating or Arab quarters entrusted with the dirty work. However, the embellishment attempted so far has not succeeded in bringing closer--or even the possibility of bringing closer--the U.S. and Arab desires.

TISHRIN affirms that the Arabs, particularly Syria, want to liberate their territory--which is being occupied by Israel--and to secure all the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to establish a national state on their land. They want to stop once and for all the cancerous Zionist expansion in their homeland. They want to use their oil resources to achieve progress and prosperity, and not as tools for subjugating themselves or strengthening their enemy. They want the Arab homeland to be free, to be a homeland over which only the Arab flag is raised, a homeland that is a friend to those who seek friendship with it and an enemy to those hostile to it.

So far, the United States has issued no statements which support in principle complete withdrawal from the occupied territories and the Arab Palestinian people's national rights. On the contrary, all that has been issued demands that the Arabs accept occupation, relinquish the Palestinians' rights and ally themselves with Israel against the Soviet Union--the Arabs' friend.

The paper concludes: It is impossible for the Arabs to accept what the United States wants. Indeed, they rejected the U.S. desires despite the military setbacks and all types of weakness. They cannot accept this now that the balance of power in the region and the world has changed and now that oil--an Arab national resource--has gained great importance in the world.

The Arabs will not be frightened by Israel's threats and the U.S. arms shipments. The Arabs have many effective weapons--and oil is not the last of these. They also have sources of power they will not give up. The threat to use force will not open doors for the United States and its policy.

ATH-THAWRAH LAUDS SYRIAN GUARANTOR ROLE IN LEBANON

JN090850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Syrian Strategy in Lebanon Is an Established Fact and a Distinctive Privilege," ATH-THAWRAH says: The nature of the cheap allegations being disseminated by the agent and hireling mass media against the Syrian role in Lebanon must be contemplated. Such allegations seek to cover up the collusion of those propagating them and undermine the noble Syrian initiative in Lebanon and the special relations linking the two fraternal states.

The paper affirms that primary among these truths is that the present Lebanon is a natural extension of the motherland Syria, just like Palestine and Jordan. This reaffirms that Syria's responsibility toward its natural extensions is historical, since its position and weight have always qualified it to liberate itself and its parts and to be the quarter that is most capable of guaranteeing the independence and freedom of these parts.

Lebanon's example proves this. French colonialism would not have found itself forced to evacuate Jabal Lubnan had it not been for the painful blows dealt it in Damascus and the remaining Syrian regions and the popular uprisings which sullied France's standing in the region and forced it to leave the region. The paper adds that just as Syria has always been the guarantor and protector of Lebanon's independence, unity and Arabism, it will remain so today. Syria will allow no one to play with Lebanon's fate and independence.

Syria, which struggled against French colonialism and liberated Lebanon from this colonialism, is struggling today even more relentlessly and with greater determination against Israel's expansionist and colonialist ambitions in Lebanon. It will liberate Lebanon from these ambitions and all the small agents who are seeking to impose Zionist hegemony over this country. Furthermore, Syria will not allow history to repeat itself; it will not allow the logic of the Sykes-Picot defenders--who have sought, since 1916, to fragment the region, submerge it in civil wars and sectarian conflicts, exacerbate problems and impede efforts to solve these problems, thus establishing the equation that there are no solutions to any problems--to prevail.

It is high time to root out such logic in Lebanon. It is also high time for the proponents of such logic among the Lebanese to reconsider their calculations and abandon their illusions that they are capable of imposing what they want through a military settlement.

Let them know that a solution that contravenes Syrian strategy in Lebanon cannot see light. This strategy has been established since 1943 on the bases that Syria is the guarantor and protector of Lebanon's independence and Arabism. Thus, any endeavors that do not take this fact into consideration are doomed to failure.

TEXT OF 8 JUL BEGIN TELEVISION INTERVIEW

TA081957 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Interview of Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the weekly "Moqed" program by pol'tical correspondent Elimelekh Ram and party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al; program moderator is Ya'aqov Ahime'ir--videotaped in the television studio on 8 July]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Good evening to you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Begin] A very good evening to you.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Begin, could one say, at this stage, that there is a coalition which you will head?

[Begin] Yes, I think I can say that we have 61 Knesset members who can support a Cabinet that I, God willing, plan to form after the president of the state entrusts me with the job of forming the Cabinet. According to the law, he will give me 21 days, and I hope that I will be able to form the Cabinet in an even shorter period of time, and then I will present it to the Knesset and ask it to show confidence in it, after we present the [Cabinet's] guidelines, too. Everything as stipulated in the law, everything according to the constitution.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, is there room in this coalition for the Telem and Tehiya factions, too?

[Begin] In any event we do not disqualify from consideration either of these two factions. The question is whether we will be able to reach an agreement on the basis of which a coalition can be founded. I met personally with Mr Dayan and with two of his colleagues--MK Ben-Porat and Zalman Shoval--and we held a conversation that took 2 hours and which was a very interesting one, but one cannot say that we reached conclusions. We decided to hold another meeting. The conversation we held focused only on principles, not on portfolios or anything called pragmatic. I will certainly invite Mr Dayan [for a meeting] next week. Today he is abroad, by the way. Next week I will call him for another meeting, and then we will find out whether the members of Tehiya [as heard] talk in unison. As far as I have heard, they have certain differences of opinion but I am unable to say this with certainty. I have not met with him to this very date. [as heard]

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, according to the picture you have drawn, there is a coalition comprising 61 seats. The question is whether a majority of one seat might not make the Cabinet's functioning difficult?

[Begin] It will not. You must understand that a limited majority, or as it is called, a narrow parliamentary basis, is not necessarily a problem. Sometimes it is very helpful. But it is a great principle in the British Parliament--the mother of all parliaments--that a large majority is very dangerous. No party in the British Parliament is happy if it forms the government when it has a parliamentary majority. Why? Because then a large number of parliament members see it as a possibility and a just thing to silently and without any apprehension vote against the government. And such things have happened. On the other hand, if the majority is small, everyone knows that if he raises his hand in objection, or if he abstains, he may bring about the fall of the government. He does not desire it. Our experience in the first 6 months of our being in power 4 years ago, when we had a majority of 63 seats, these first 6 months were a model. Even in the opinion of our rivals, it was one of the best Cabinets in Israel since the establishment of the state. The malfunctions I had mentioned came afterward, not, God forbid, because of my friends and colleagues from the Democratic Movement for Change [DMC], but objectively, people reached the conclusion that since there is a majority of 76--which is a vast majority--then let us vote against, or abstain, or vote with our feet. Thus, indeed, the malfunctioning happened. Therefore, such a majority--not of one or two--but of 61 against 59 is absolutely sufficient.

By the way, Churchill--one of the spokesmen for democracy in the world--had said: In a democracy, one is enough. In other words, a majority of one is enough.

[Ahime'ir] In other words, Mr Prime Minister, a politician or statesman should strive to have a limited majority in parliament? I would like to understand this.

[Begin] No, I did not say this. As they say, you said it. But I do not mean in the well-known sense of this turn of phrase, in other words, that I agree with you. No. One strives to have a majority but if there is such a majority as I mentioned earlier--namely, of two votes--it is sufficient completely to fulfill its duty. I do not seek a majority of 15 votes.

[Ahime'ir] And could such a government, Mr Prime Minister, complete its full term in your estimation?

[Begin] No doubt. But can I prophesy? Someone has been saying: wait and see, there will be another election in 2 years. So let there be elections. Why not? Why should we fear an election? Let the Alignment fear it--and it has reason to be apprehensive about it--even though it has put up a show of desiring another election tomorrow. This is not exactly so, in reality.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, a majority of one is a majority for all intents and purposes. However, the question remains: On prime national issues, will it be right for half the nation, in effect, or as you said, 59 representatives in the Knesset, half the Knesset members to be on the other side of the fence, or in the opposition?

[Begin] Sir, there is, for example, no choice, when all 59 are against. Then the majority rules. How otherwise can one make decisions? But it is not so, not as you put it. On basic national issues there are not 59 votes against. For example, Telem and Tehiya do not share the Alignment's views on the important national issues, so they do not oppose the 61 Cabinet supporters. And part of the Alignment will similarly not always be in the opposing camp. Therefore there are no grounds to say that because of this division, so to speak, we are divided 50-50. No. Precisely on the crucial national topics it may very well be that the Cabinet will enjoy a much larger majority than it has in accordance with the formation I intend to present.

[Ram] What crucial issues do you have in mind, for instance?

[Begin] It is you who should explain to me what you meant in presenting your question.

[Ram] Perhaps I should provide an example. No one could tell--just as we did not know things when the Likud first assumed power--that we would sign a peace treaty with Egypt and would evacuate the Sinai. Supposing we sign a peace treaty with Syria and have to evacuate the Golan Heights?

[Begin] We will not evacuate the Golan Heights in a peace treaty with Syria. We have said so explicitly in our platform, which--I am sure--Al-Asad also read. It is written specifically in our platform and we published it--I have not read the Alignment's platform and to this very day I have no idea what they propose--but we, a week before the election and to my mind too late, we published the platform. I truly tried to urge my colleagues to publish the platform several weeks before the election but this did not work out. It is written explicitly there that when negotiations on a peace treaty open between Syria and Israel, the Government of Israel will inform the Government of Syria that we will not pull out of the Golan Heights or remove any settlement from it.

This, no doubt, reached Al-Asad.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, perhaps we should move a bit to the subject of a national unity government. Yesterday Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said at the meeting of his party's executive, and I quote: Had Mr Begin really wanted a national unity government to be established, he would have initiated a personal approach to me and would not have done this through mediators. As far as you are concerned, is there still room for such an appeal, to establish a national unity government?

[Begin] This is one of the most interesting stories in the annals of Israeli politics. Mr Peres was asked by someone, I do not recall who it was: What about a national unity government? He said: Out of the question. His response began with the words: Between Herut--at the time the Likud did not exist--and the Alignment there are fundamental disputes; we can under no circumstances form a national unity government [with it]. Later, Dr Burg--my friend and colleague, the interior minister--went to him and clearly proposed to him to conduct negotiations on establishing a national unity government. He totally refused. Ultimately, the education minister, Zvulun Hammer, talked to me and tried to persuade me. I told him: Zvulun, my friend, what do you want? Twice you got a negative reply and you want me to invite a refusal? Is this for the sake of honor or the prestige of the government? What is the use? Still he persisted. So I told him: Zvulun, I have a suggestion to make to you: go to Mr Peres and ask him not if he agrees to join a national unity government but a much simpler question--whether he agrees to enter into negotiations on establishing such a government. If he tells you that he is prepared to conduct negotiations, I will invite him that very day. And, of course, Zvulun Hammer carried out the mission he was given. Later Mr Peres said: Out of the question, and summoned one of the [Alignment] institutions. I do not know exactly whether it was the executive or the secretariat or the like [Ahime'ir interjects that it was the executive] and they unanimously decided that there is no room for this. So after all this, should I approach Mr Peres? With what? He said I should--among other things--have courage enough to approach him, not only what you read out. I read [his reply] and wondered. I think that after these three absolute nay's, a fourth approach does not require courage but foolhardiness, and we have not yet reached this stage.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to get back to the affair of the Cabinet appointments in the government you will form. Could you confirm the report broadcast more than once on Mabat newscasts saying that 'Ari'el Sharon will be the defense minister in your cabinet?

[Begin] I can neither confirm this nor deny it. The reason has nothing at all to do with Ari'el Sharon but with a national system. If the president, next week--God willing--has to entrust me with forming the Cabinet, then I will decide on its composition after I am charged with this. For the time being, I am the prime minister by law but not by virtue of having been charged with the job of forming it, as the president should do. Well, then, each one should be allowed to fulfill his constitutional role. With all due respect, I am awaiting the invitation of the president of the state. Then I will begin forming the Cabinet. I may compose it all at once, and then you will know all the appointments of all the ministers, or I may appoint them piecemeal, and then I will be able to reply to this question as well.

[RAM] Sir, perhaps you could reply to another question on the same subject. In the past, the strongest objection has been expressed in the current, outgoing Cabinet to the appointment of Mr Sharon as defense minister. Moreover, you even refrained from giving him that post after Mr Weizman's resignation due to this objection. Do you estimate that in the Cabinet that will be formed this objection might be less, or perhaps disappear altogether?

[Begin] First, I confirm your initial statement. There was objection and I did not have a Cabinet majority on this proposal. I presume that if I reach the conclusion--after the president of the state charges me with the job of forming the Cabinet....

[Ahime'ir] If and when he does so....

[Begin] If and--no. The alignment says: If and when. I speak good and correct Hebrew. If all this takes place and if I suggest at the Cabinet that Mr Ari'el Sharon be appointed defense minister, there will be a majority in the Cabinet for this proposal.

[Mish'al] In other words, you have already examined such a possibility among your colleagues?

[Begin] It is my impression that you are a very intelligent man if you reached such a conclusion.

[Ahime'ir] And yet you do not deny the possibility that....

[Begin] I said that I neither deny nor confirm it. I have not yet been given the job by the president. Perhaps the president would not want to give the job to me.

[Mish'al] Well, then, perhaps let us touch upon the meeting you held today with the religious affairs minister. As far as is known, Mr Aharon Abu-Hatzera demands, or requests, continuing to serve as religious affairs minister. The NRP, on the other hand, has declared that it objects to this. How do you plan to effect a compromise between these two parties?

[Begin] This is truly a difficult task. It is true that the NRP claims that the Religious Affairs Ministry should be given to it, whereas Mr Abu-Hatzera was the religious affairs minister, and a way out has to be found. I will meet again with Minister Abu-Hatzera, my good friend, Relgious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera, on Friday and will hold another talk with him. I hope we will find a way out. It is not such a crucial matter which portfolio is held by whom. These are differences of opinion that one always encounters in forming a coalition. But later a way out is found, and one raises a toast.

[Mish'al] Do you believe he would be prepared to give up this portfolio in return for....

[Begin] I do not have to estimate anything. I am saying that this is a problem with which I am faced, and over which I have been holding talks with both parties, and I assume it will culminate in a toast.

[Mish'al] In today's conversation with the religious affairs minister, was the question of removing his immunity raised?

[Begin] No. What does it mean--the removal of his immunity? It has been removed. What do you think, that we are cannibals in this country? Supposing a person stands a trial; so, is he guilty? He is innocent, according to all the human laws. What happened to us, really, with regard to the Abu-Hatzera problem, and maybe other problems too? Why do we find a person guilty who has not yet been found guilty by an authorized court? Abu-Hatzera was tried and he emerged not guilty. As long as the second court has not decided that he is guilty, he is innocent of any crime. He is innocent and is to be regarded as such.

[Ram] Sir, in his first trial, he either terminated or suspended his participation in Cabinet sessions. Do you think that Mr Abu-Hatzera is worthy of serving as minister while his second trial is underway?

[Begin] Yes. I replied to MK Mr Virshubsky in writing that there is a difference: when Mr Abu-Hatzera was put on trial, from which he emerged not guilty, truly it was impossible for him, at the same time, to participate in Cabinet sessions because on that same Sunday the court sessions also took place. So where was he? He never participated in Cabinet sessions. It was his duty to appear in court. Now no such thing happens. The court is in recess and Mr Abu-Hatzera has been participating in all the Cabinet sessions. He expresses his views and presents his suggestions. When the trial begins, I will leave it up to him. If he asks for leave, he will get it, but this is first of all a matter for his initiative. However, the trial will not begin before October.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to proceed to another branch of the religious parties. Is there readiness on your part to accept the demand by Agudat Yisra'el to amend the Law of Return to state that proper [by Orthodox rabbis] conversion to Judaism be the precondition for its joining the coalition?

[Begin] It is no secret that this has been my position, has always been, even before Agudat Yisra'el joined the coalition, and I delivered three public speeches on the subject--two of them in the Knesset, one as a Knesset member and one as member of the national unity government headed by Mrs Golda Me'ir, may her soul rest in peace, and one in the Jewish congress--and I have always said that conversion should be proper [not by Reform rabbis]. Kahalakha--the very term conversion is a Jewish law term. How can it be otherwise, not according to the Jewish law, and therefore it should definitely be so. Therefore, I need no pressure from Agudat Yisra'el to say so. This is my opinion and has always been so. I explained in the Knesset that the Jewish nation is unireligious and the Jewish religion is uninational. It is a unity, indeed, and it is an uncommon thing in the human race but this is how we have existed for 3,700 years. We were born with our law and our people took it with them in the Diaspora and returned with it to Eretz Yisra'el. Therefore, this is my opinion. However, even here there are people who do not accept this view and I cannot force it upon them. I can only try to persuade them. If I succeed, then certainly the amendment will be accepted. If, God forbid, I fail, then we will not have a majority. In my opinion, as long as no majority is guaranteed, it is better not to submit the draft law, because a counter vote will, in my view, harm the honor of Israel and that of every man in Israel.

[Ahime'ir] Do you, sir, not fear alienation on the part of a large part of the people, living in America, who support--and are part of--Reform Jewry should this amendment be passed?

[Begin] I do not think this should cause any alienation. What is this? Why should Reform Jews be alienated? I am familiar with that movement. It has grown much closer to Zionism. But as far as conversion is concerned, if we decide that a non-Jew who wants to become a member of our people should undergo that same ceremony that has existed for thousands of years--it is a tradition that existed for millenia--then I am alienating someone? I should imagine I would be growing closer to them and drawing them closer. This ceremony has existed for thousands of years since the days of the second temple. How can I ignore such a tradition? We have been living this tradition, otherwise we would long ago have ceased to exist.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, is additional legislation in the field of observing the religious laws and, perhaps, changing the religious status quo to be expected?

[Begin] We do not recognize the term status quo. By the way, there is no such thing as status quo. There is either status quo ante, or status quo post. Meaning, the situation before, or after. Status quo is merely jargon. It is Latin, but jargon.

I have not yet met with the NRP and Agudat Yisra'el over this matter. They probably have certain demands. We will hear them, and if we can fulfill them, we will do it gladly. One should not pressure us, or force things upon us. We are not under any commitment. Everything we have done for the faith of Israel and the mandate of Israel [as heard] in the [last] 4 years, and we did it, we did out of our own internal belief, because, my dear friend, we are Jews. And, as I said earlier, the Jewish nation is unireligious, and the Jewish religion is uninationalistic, and the two cannot in any way be divided. We distinguish only between citizenship [ezrahut] and religion and nationality [dat ule'on]. Here we can have a Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist citizen, or a Jewish, Arab or Danish citizen--anyone who comes and becomes naturalized according to the law will be a citizen [ezrah], each one of them. They are all equal in our eyes. But as far as the religion and the nationality are concerned, with us the two are one.

[Ram] But if we, or the government, changes the status quo ante on religious matters, do you not think that all our ways of life to which we have grown accustomed and been made to become used to in over 30 years of the state's existence may be changed?

[Begin] No, no, do not fear. Nothing will be forced upon you. Believe me. No one will force anything on you. You are a free man. I do not know if you have thus far been a free man, but you will definitely be one.

[Ram] Driving on the Sabbath in the area of Haifa, for example, travel by public transportation?

[Begin] This is a very serious question. I would like to hear what Agudat Yisra'el's reasons are [for opposing public transportation on the Sabbath]. If you wish for an answer, and I will not shirk it, this is something that is deeply-rooted in Haifa, and I am not sure if we will be able to comply with their demand.

[Ram] What about soccer on Saturdays?

[Begin] Again, these things have existed for tens of years, and Agudat Yisra'el has never demanded this [that they be prohibited]. We conducted the negotiations 4 years ago, and they did not present a demand to stop soccer games on the Sabbath. They never even presented such a demand, and this is a fact, because they are sensible people and they understand that something that has been deeply rooted in the course of one whole generation, perhaps two, is difficult to change. If one day we have two days of rest--and I hope that even I, in my generation, will live to see the people of Israel work 5 days a week, and not 6, because progress must be made and perhaps one could in the 5 days of the week do more than in 6 days of work because there will be greater readiness to work than in 6 days of work because there will be greater readiness to work and the like--that 1 day will be devoted to sport, and it will not be on the Sabbath, and the Sabbath will be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath.

My friend, I remember the Sabbath from my old home. One did not see even one horse and carriage, because all of the carters were Jewish. No shop was opened, and the Jews would lose money, as Sunday was a forced day of rest on them, so they sold neither on Saturday nor on Sunday, and you saw no movement except movement toward the synagogue and back. A Sabbath of rest, this was a wonderful thing. Would that we would have had such a Sabbath in Eretz Yisra'el, but never in a forced manner. Not by force, only by persuasion.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, maybe we can move to the election issue. The view prevalent today is that we have emerged from this election campaign with sectoral polarization. Do you accept this assessment?

[Begin] No, there is no ground for this. I do not know where this theory has been taken from. Members of all communities voted for all parties, after all. I was very sorry to hear from Mr Peres the term of two cultures. This is a surprising thing. First, anybody saying there are two cultures is, as it were, immediately saying that his culture is superior. Does he have a higher culture than mine? Did he graduate from two faculties at the university? Does he read more books than I? What does two cultures mean--a single person with a single culture. What is our culture? Each of us has brought something special from his country, but our culture is first of all the ancient Hebrew culture. We took it with us to the Diaspora for 1,800 years and we are now renewing it in Eretz Yisra'el. This is the Hebrew our children talk, the Bible we are all studying. We are renewing the old time Hebrew culture. In addition, each of us has what I would call a sack that was brought from the Disapora. There are beautiful things in this sack. Open it up--it is very beautiful. A people with a tradition. Take Morocco for example--the Moroccan Jews have special clothes as we see in Mimuna celebrations [the annual celebrations of Jews of North African origin]. This is very beautiful--why not have it? Our brethren from Yemen also came with very beautiful, very esthetic men's dances--I saw them, why should they be blurred? What division into sects are you talking about? One should forget this. If you speak of such a division you might as well remember the remarks made at the time in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening [the Alignment's elections rally where Likud members were referred to with a derogatory term used for Oriental Jews]. I had better not get into this.

[Mish'al] No, no. This assumption--since you are asking--is based on the fact that 70 percent of the Oriental Jews voted for the Likud while only 30 percent of European and American origin voted for the Likud. Hence the prevalent view that Oriental Jews, most of them, voted for the Likud....

[Begin--interrupted] Listen, my friend. I will remind you of things long forgotten. I once was the commander of ETZEL [the initials of the prestate military organization] as you know. The rumor spread then was that only Yemenites served in the ETZEL. This was said officially and clearly. It was not good, since the British police raided all the Yemenite neighborhoods. It should not have been said. It is a fact. Then too, I claimed, in personal talks--I could not speak on television then--that we have members of all communities in our ranks. I could prove this. Of course we had Yemenite Jews in the ETZEL. We had a slogan before setting out for an operation: Abi gzunt [Yiddish for "Be healthy"]. All Yemenites said this and understood the meaning of these words. If you say 60 percent [here Mish'al corrects Begin: 70 not 60 percent] of the Oriental Jews and 30 percent of European Jews--this means that both communities voted. Proportion is another matter. I know that Oriental Jews voted for the Alignment and all due respect to them. Has anybody called them names and said anything on them? If so, this is somebody else's business, not theirs. The same holds true for us. European, Asian, African Jews voted for us. All communities voted. There is no quarrel between the communities in Israel. It is long forgotten. We are one people. Still, after the elections each should tell another--as I have already suggested once: "and all the congregation of the people of Israel shall be forgiven, and the stranger who sojourns among them, because the whole population was involved in the error." [Biblical verse] The war is over: Now we should live together, work together and build the country together, whoever he may be and wherever he may be, be it in the coalition or in the opposition or in a national unity government if one is established. All follow democratic rules. There is no division into sects. We are one people. I would like you to remember these words. They are not mine--they are Theodor Herzl's, who emphasized in the language he wrote that one people is one people. In the Hebrew language this cannot be stressed the same. We shall also be one people in the future as well.

[Ahime'ir] I would like, Mr Prime Minister, to go over to remarks made after the elections. Likud MK Roni Milo has lately expressed himself--according to the press--to the effect that anybody with a red party booklet [the Alignment's Histadrut sick fund booklet] will be beaten out. Perhaps he referred to the governmental or national mechanism. What do you think about this expression?

[Begin] If these remarks were made by my friend--almost my son--Roni Milo, they were not made with my approval and I do not at all agree with this. It is not sure however that he said this--I will have to ask him if he did so. What does it mean that those who have a red booklet will have to beat it? What does this mean--does a red booklet mean wings of an airplane?

[Ram] He meant that whoever will be accepted for work....

[Begin--interrupts] Do not tell me what he meant. I understand Hebrew myself. I would like to say that anybody in Israel may carry any booklet he so wishes: red, blue, white, reddish--any kind of booklet. I will give you some examples. I have a military secretary. He was the military secretary of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the time for 3 years. He has been my military secretary for 4 years. He is a wonderful person who works with me with full loyalty. My press secretary, Dan Patir, whom you know--was he not the press secretary of Rabin, did he not work for Davar? He too worked for me for nearly 4 years. He has left for the United States now. I can give you examples of the most important posts where we have not changed a thing and I think this is how things should be since we were chosen by the people to serve the nation and not to give positions to our colleagues. I wish to God that the party that was once called MAPAI and later the Labor Party and today the Alignment had used to do so. This party indeed chose people according to membership booklets. It indeed wrote notes based on connections along the lines of: accept this person to work since he is one of ours. This is approximately what it did. I am not quoting precisely, but this was indeed the way things ran. Therefore, the governmental mechanism is mainly, almost totally, made up of a certain party. We did not remove people from their positions. Only several tens of appointments throughout the apparatus that numbers thousands, tens of thousands of people [were made by the Likud government]. A director general here and there for example--well this is natural. There was hardly any change with me. I replaced the director of the bureau with Yehi'el Qadishay. You know him--do you have a better bureau director general in the State of Israel? True, he is my friend. I have worked with him for 25 years already.

[Ahime'ir] And this is how you will behave in the next government as well?

[Begin] There is no doubt about this. There is no doubt about this, do not be afraid. If you have red booklets, hold onto them.

[Mish'al] There may be a change on another issue. To continue Ya'aqov Ahime'ir's quotation from Roni Milo's remarks--this Knesset member suggested the establishment of a second television channel. He said he would submit a draft proposal on this, a channel outside of, independent of the broadcasting authority. Do you support this proposal?

[Begin] Yes, a good idea, a very successful one in my opinion. A second television channel should be set up. We are the only country that has only one television channel. But you need not so much fear competition--on the contrary, you will then make greater efforts and will turn into a better television station. At any rate, you will not be as always an antigovernmental television. You do not always have to be against the government.

[Ahime'ir] Are we always antigovernment?

[Begin] Every 4 years then. You, the television and the radio, this is how you interpreted the term national [communications media]. You interpreted the term of national as anti-government. Every 4 years, I have evidence of this but this is a waste of time now. However, a second channel not as part of the national television, an independent second channel is surely sound and useful. I will support this.

[Mish'al] Do you think it will be set up in the second term?

[Begin] This I cannot say. I hope so. Investments are needed, experts are needed, consultations are needed too. However, it is a very useful and very sound idea.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, on another matter--does the new government you will set up intend to continue setting up settlements in Judaea and Samaria?

[Begin] Possibly. We should check into this. In fact, though, the main intention regarding Judaea and Samaria is to add buildings and to add people. This is the main intention. If it is necessary, we will add one or two settlements were necessary. However, we filled Judaea and Samaria with Jewish settlements. The decisive issue is to add people. There should be many more Jews in Judaea and Samaria and for this many more houses should be built. God willing we will set them up and bring the Jews there.

[Ram] To another issue now--what is the meaning of Lebanese leader Al-Jumayyil's announcement regarding the future relations between Lebanon's Christians and the State of Israel?

[Begin] According to my information, the situation in Lebanon today is very delicate. Negotiations are underway. Mr Philip Habib is only partly taking part in the negotiations. He will be in the Middle East tomorrow. I hope that after his visit in Beirut he will arrive in Israel. At any rate, I told the U.S. ambassador yesterday that I ask Mr Philip Habib to come to Jerusalem after his visit to Beirut since I must hear what he has to say. For us the missiles issue is a very serious one. It cannot be dragged on infinitely. Philip Habib is going to leave Beirut for Riyadh. However, I was not yet notified by the U.S. Embassy whether he will indeed come to Israel first or will go to Saudi Arabia before coming here [and after leaving Beirut]. The situation there is very delicate. Negotiations are underway. The most important problem is the total removal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon--this is one of the Christian's conditions. Therefore, due to the delicacy of the matter I would settle--and I hope you too would settle--for the somewhat general answer I have just given you.

[Ram] Sir, will the government, in your opinion, be able to continue to provide the massive subsidies as it has so far for all the basic commodities?

[Begin] No, we will not be able to supply massive subsidies for long. We actually want to gradually lift the subsidies. It is not permissible to do so all at once. In my opinion, lifting the subsidies all at once would be a cruel deed that a proper government, worthy of its name, could not do. At any rate, I will under no circumstances agree to it. You cannot conceive of having a housewife come to a grocery store, and see that milk has gone up, margarine costs more, bread prices have risen all at once--everything. This cannot be. However, gradually one can do so while examining the effects on the market, the economy and the housewife. I hope we will do this, but not immediately. Right now, we have to reduce inflation.

[Ahime'ir] How?

[Begin] Will you not invite the finance minister to be interviewed on "Moqed" after I form the government and he receives the Knesset's vote of confidence as foreign minister?

[Ram] By the way, who will be the next finance minister?

[Begin] I will tell you after I get the job of forming the Cabinet from the president. Then, will you not invite him? You will certainly ask him very precise questions. What I would like to explain is that thank God, we have succeeded in one thing--no, in two things. First we do not have massive unemployment. We only have pockets of unemployment which are control. Second, we have a cost-of-living increment that provides full compensation for price hikes. You should be made aware of the fact that real wages here went up by 13.5 percent, so that no person has in effect lost because of inflation. This is not good for the country, but the citizen did not lose. Now, inflation should be lowered. I hope the new Cabinet will definitely do it. But look at England, where there are currently 3 million unemployed--a larger number than in 1931 when the great world crisis began with the collapse of New York's Wall Street stock exchange. Here 1 percent of the manpower is unemployed. There is a greater number of people who seek work, but this is a different issue. We have eliminated the pockets of unemployment, and this is a very great achievement. As for the real wages, received by earners, no one has anything to lose. Now, inflation must be lowered and I hope we will do it. We have, according to what I gather from the latest developments as well as from conversations with the finance minister, reached a stage of decline, or, excuse me, of control [blima] and now the stage of lowering inflation will begin.

[Ahime'ir] I have one more question to present pertaining, perhaps, to the economic sphere: Do you, Mr Prime Minister, know about the invention in the energy field announced by Ya'aqov Meridor prior to the election [when he claimed scientists working at one of his plants have discovered a new source of energy]?

[Begin] I was among those who heard the message from him, and he told me last night, too: It is 100 percent true. I told him: You should provide a scientist to explain to the public and other scientists the nature of this invention. There are people who say this is perpetual motion, inventing something out of nothing.

[Ahime'ir] Like the invention of the wheel?

[Begin] Yes. So he said he would definitely do so. So it may well be that in a short while--though I do not know when--an authorized scientist will come forward to explain to scientists as well what has happened. I cannot imagine that Ya'aqov Meridor, whom I have known for 25 years, would conjure up something like this. I am sure he based himself on what he had been told by well-informed scientists. I was among the first to hear these good tidings, and I said: This is unbelievable, Ya'aqov.

[Ahime'ir] Were you convinced about the invention?

[Begin] I have all the faith in Ya'aqov Meridor, and if he says this he knows why he is saying it. However, I heard, for example, our former president [Qatzir], who is a great scientist deserving everyone's respect, said he has no faith in it. Therefore, in view of Professor Qatzir's remarks, I called my friend Ya'aqov Meridor and said to him: Ya'aqov, with all due respect, you are no scientist; you deal with other business. He was a fighter, who ran away from [British] jails, and who as a great expert, Ya'aqov Meridor, has dealt in the course of his life with a lot of things, but he is no scientist. I told him to bring a scientist. He promised to do this. Then we will learn from that scientist, and also hear other scientists.

[Ahime'ir] Finally, Mr Prime Minister, may I ask you something of a personal yet public nature? At one time you announced that you would retire from political life at the age of 70--may you reach 120--and now you plan to form your second Cabinet. What, in fact, are your plans?

[Begin] I will answer you gladly, but you have forgotten that one day, about 2 months before the election, I added to this announcement at the request of my colleagues. They argued that this announcement that I would retire at the age of 70, 2 years after I form the government, was harmful to the Likud because citizens could say: Well, then, we elect a Cabinet and a prime minister for 2 years, and who will come after him? We do not know for he does not tell us. As a result of this conviction--and I am open to persuasion--I issued the following announcement, and my colleagues can bear witness: Since you say that that announcement was harmful, I am prepared now to revoke it, and instead issue the following statement: If, at the age of 70, I feel that I have the strength, and you want me, I will continue until the end of the term of office. On the other hand, I would like to emphasize, that if this should happen--and I have not changed my mind--I want to retire at the age of 70 and I want to write a book entitled "The Generation of Holocaust and Revival" of five or six volumes, and I need time for that; and how much time does a man have? One may reach the ripe age of 80, whereas normally a man reaches 70 and then has to go. One must, my friend, prepare for the long journey. But I want to manage to write the book, for which purpose I need a number of years. Without a doubt, I still want to retire at 70. Yet I promised. I may well serve throughout the term of the 10th Knesset, but these are my last elections. I will not be a candidate for the 11th Knesset. By then the Herut movement and the Likud will have to elect another person as chairman, to be their colleague talk on their behalf and represent them. However, when the time comes and in due course, a year before the date of the new elections, it will be necessary to effect the reshuffle. This is provided I continue 4 years. If I stay on for only 2 years, this is very soon.

[Ahime'ir] Even if the election is held early, say in 1 or 1 and 1/2 years, will you still not stand for election?

[Begin] If elections are held in another 18 months, I would like you to know, Ya'aqov, that I am a very old warhorse. If I hear the fanfare and the call to arms, I doubt that I could stay home.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Prime Minister, I thank you for having come to the "Moqed" studio. Good evening to you, and thank you.

[Begin] Thank you, and all the best.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. TO RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS

TA071740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, is to return to Israel for consultations at the end of this week. Our correspondent in Washington reports that the ambassador was invited to Israel a few days after the elections by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The consultations will deal with the chances for a continuation of the peace talks, the crisis in Lebanon, the freeze on the supply of F-16's to Israel and the AWACS issue, which the U.S. administration plans to send to Congress for approval.

MAURITANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR LIBYA VISIT 8 JUL

AB081859 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Lt Comdr Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, member of the CMSN and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Nouakchott this morning for Tripoli for a friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

MALIAN MINISTER'S REMARKS ON SAHARA PROTESTED

LD081410 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Rabat, 8 Jul (MAP)--Mr M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, received here Tuesday Mr Farouk Kaoje, Nigerian ambassador to Rabat; Mr Abbas Moussa Mustapha, Sudanese ambassador; Dr Kenkoura Camara, ambassador of Guinea; and Mr Aly Dioum, ambassador of Senegal, as representatives of member countries of the implementation committee constituted during the eighteenth summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to whom he handed a text of strong protest destined to their respective heads of state.

The text reads: "In an inopportune declaration to the press and the radio of his country, the Malian minister of foreign affairs arrogated to himself the right to talk on behalf of the implementation committee entrusted by the 18th OAU summit to tackle the Western Sahara problem. With words of little respect towards the heads of state, the said minister obviously usurped powers and with no right whatsoever dwelt on the role and mission of the committee. This committee, constituted at the level of heads of state, has a chairman and its role has been clearly defined.

"While raising strong protest, Morocco considers the remarks of the Malian minister as constituting a true provocation of which Mali alone will bear the consequences. The irresponsibility and lack of respect of such remarks cannot be tolerated and Morocco will take appropriate action in due time."

On the other hand, Mr Boucetta received Mr Aly Dioum, Senegalese ambassador to Rabat, whose country represents Moroccan interests in Addis Ababa, headquarters of the OAU, and handed him a text of the Moroccan protest destined to the secretary general of the OAU.

The same text was handed to Mr Souleyman Sako, ambassador of Ivory Coast and destined to President Houphouet-Boigny.

The Moroccan protest was also dispatched, through diplomatic ways, to Mr Daniel arap Moi, acting chairman of the OAU and chairman of the implementation committee, as well as to heads of states members of the said committee.

SUDAN

RAILWAY TRADE UNION LEADERS RELEASED 7 JUL

JN081023 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (SUNA)--All members of the dissolved railway workers trade union were released yesterday following President Numayri's decree to suspend all the suing procedures against the trade union. The railway workers had resumed work already.

TUNISIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

Talks With Klibi

LD071618 Tunis TAP in English 1407 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jul (TAP)--"Nothing is at present more necessary in the Near-East than the Arabs' unity" said on Monday French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson at the end of an interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

"Progress in the Near-East, he added, includes the Arabs' unity and we, in France, are really convinced of that". "The Near-East affair is extremely serious for peace all over the world because it is an unendurable pain for those who are doomed to despair like the Palestinians", said Mr Cheysson. As regards the Euro-Arab dialogue the minister stated:

"For us, the construction of the Arab League is quite fundamental. It is our partner in the Euro-Arab dialogue and we believe that one day this dialogue will be really important. It is an effort of the Arab countries to face things together and we have faith in this way".

Cheysson Press Conference

LD071632 Tunis TAP in English 1400 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jul (TAP)--Co-operation between France and Tunisia has reached the stage of exemplary co-operation that should exist between industrialized and developing countries, i.e. the stage of integration and complementarity", said on Monday French Foreign Minister Mr Claude Cheysson during a press conference in Tunis.

The French minister also stressed that in addition to the increasing number of Tuniso-French joint firms, several French companies such as Renault, Peugeot, Elf Aquitaine and Le Credit Agricole now agree to launch important projects in Tunisia".

Mr Cheysson also pointed out the similarity between the two countries' stands on the current problems, stressing that this similitude should lead the two parties to joint conclusions, the first being that no peace can be established in the world as long as peoples like the Palestinians or the Namibians are excluded from the international community.

About Arab-French co-operation Mr Cheysson pointed out that "his country has exemplary ties with the Arab League and considers that the league is a chief pillar of the Euro-Arab dialogue."

As for the French stand concerning the Near-East question, the French minister stressed that his country was attached to certain fundamental elements such as the security of all the states of the region inside borders recognized by the international community and the right to a homeland and to self determination.

Concerning the holy shrines, Mr Cheysson stressed that the status of Al-Quds "cannot be altered by only one party and that this question can only be resolved as part of a global settlement".

Answering a question on the OAU resolution on the Western Sahara, Mr Cheysson expressed satisfaction at "the decision of King Hassan II of Morocco, which was accepted by all the African states".

It will be noted that the French foreign minister has just paid an official visit to Tunisia during which he was received by President Bourguiba and conferred with several Tunisian officials.

Mr Cheysson was received by Chedli Klibi.

Statement on Visit

LD071810 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Following the official visit to Tunisia by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, a press statement was issued in which both sides confirmed the need to consolidate [words indistinct] of bilateral cooperation and the opening of new scope for this cooperation, which responds to the needs and objectives of development in Tunisia and also to the joint determination to further consolidate the close cooperation in all fields between the two countries.

The ministers, Cheysson and Es-Sebsi, expressed in particular their readiness to work for the speeding up of industrial projects agreed upon in order to give cooperation new dimensions. Both sides want this cooperation to be more balanced in the future. The ministers also agreed to consolidate Tunisian-French financial cooperation and the bank of financing was finally set up. It combines Tunisian, French and Arab financial institutions and also [words indistinct].

The two ministers also discussed relations between Tunisia and the EEC and France's determination to take into consideration the preoccupation of Tunisian political quarters, especially in the face of the problems arising from the expansion of the EEC. At the international level, the talks--which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust--showed the agreement of views on the [word indistinct] issues. The ministers expressed concern at the world economic crisis and the increase in the hotbeds of tension in the world. They also expressed the conviction that work for the elimination of tension should be based on the right of peoples to self-determination and the right of states to security and on giving impetus to the world economy and the changing of its structure to enable developing countries in particular to ensure their development.

The two ministers believe [words indistinct] that the continuation of conflicts, especially in the Middle East and Africa, constitutes a serious threat to world peace and security. In this context, the two sides confirmed the need for the United Nations to confront the serious developments witnessed in the Middle East. They reaffirmed that any just and lasting solution to this conflict can only be peaceful and comprehensive. Both sides explained that this solution must take into consideration the requirements of security in the region and respect for the Palestinian people's firm and legitimate right to self-determination.

Concerning Africa, the ministers expressed satisfaction at the emergence of [word indistinct] signs on the continent and pointed with satisfaction to the encouraging measures taken by the OAU in Nairobi to normalize the situation in Chad. They praised the peaceful initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II at this summit for the solving of the Western Sahara problem. [words indistinct]

The two ministers renewed their condemnation of the policy of racial discrimination pursued by South Africa. They pointed to the need to implement the measures taken by the United Nations against the racialist regime in Pretoria. They also expressed their firm support for the legitimate struggle of the peoples of Namibia and [words indistinct].

The two ministers also gave prominence to the importance attached by France and Tunisia to North-South dialogue. They also pointed to the need to introduce important changes in international economic relations, with the objective of laying down the foundations for a more just and equitable international economic order. In this context they (?recalled) the importance attached by both countries to the Arab-European dialogue and decided to concentrate their consultations to coordinate this dialogue.

KENYA

UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN 15 JUL; RESTRICTIONS NOTED

EA082030 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The university of Nairobi is expected to reopen next week, on Wednesday. The minister for higher education, Mr Kamotho, said this in a press statement in Nairobi today. The minister said that certain students who were members of the self-appointed interim committee which was responsible for the organizing of the Kamukunjio, which sparked off the unauthorized demonstration and its aftermath, should not be allowed to resume their studies at the university under any circumstances.

SOMALIA

SOMALI FRONT REJECTS OAU RESOLUTION ON OGADEN

NC081052 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Mogadishu, 8 Jul (AFP)--The Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF], fighting for the independence of the Ogaden region from Ethiopia, has rejected as "irresponsible and biased" the Organization of African Unity (OAU) decision declaring the region an integral part of Ethiopia. At a press conference here Tuesday WSLF Secretary-General Mohamed Derie Abi said that the OAU decision, taken at last month's Nairobi summit on the basis of a committee report on the Somali-Ethiopian dispute, had only satisfied the "colonial ambitions of Ethiopia".

In his first reaction to the ruling, Mr Abi accused the OAU committee of avoiding going too deeply into the issue for their own political reasons. The committee had not gone to the area or met people directly concerned with the problem, he said.

"Hence the WSLF rejects the irresponsible and biased resolution adopted by the summit, and will hold the OAU responsible for the bloodshed that will ensure in the Horn." He said the front would escalate its armed struggle against the Ethiopian regime. Somalia has already rejected the OAU decision as "futile and totally unacceptable".

UGANDA

FORMER AMIN AIDES NASUR, ASTLES INDICTED

EA090535 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Summary] Abdallah Nasur, former governor of Central Province, and Bob Astles, chief adviser to ex-President Amin on British affairs and later chairman of the anticorruption unit, have been committed to High Court for trial on murder charges. "It is alleged that on 24 September 1972, at Masaka military barracks in Masaka District, Nasur murdered the late (Francis Warugembe). During the trial, the prosecution is expected to produce 16 witnesses. The charge against Bob Astles is that he murdered the late Henry Musisi on 1 May 1977 at Kikoko Port on Lake Victoria, Mukono District."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

TRIAL OF BOKASSA'S ASSOCIATES BEGINS 8 JUL

AB081601 Paris AFP in French 1245 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, 8 Jul (AFP)--The CAR criminal court which is trying in public Bokassa's collaborators from 8 to 31 July began its hearing this morning in Bangui at 0815 GMT. About a dozen accused persons, all close to the former dictator, will appear for various acts. Among the notables are Mrs Elizabeth Domitien and Mr Louis Alazoula.

Prime Minister and later imperial special adviser, Mrs Domitien is accused of embezzling public funds. As vice chairman of the only party during that period, the Movement for the Social Development of Black Africa, Mrs Domitien greatly contributed, by means of extraordinary congresses, to the political rise of Jean-Bedel Bokassa. But the former prime minister was at that time the only person among Bokassa's entourage to publicly oppose his ambition to become the emperor of the CAR.

Mr Louis Alazoula, minister of interior from 1973 to 1974, is being tried for arbitrary arrests and illegal imprisonment, murder threats, prevehtion of individual freedom and abuse of authority.

The former Col Jean-Pierre Inga, condemned to death in February 1980 and whose file was returned to the prosecutor's office because of a procedural fault, will also appear before the present session of the criminal court. The former officer of the Imperial Army is accused of involvement in murder, assault and battery as well as acts of violence.

The former Lt Noel Bodepoutou and Mr Jules-Lazare Adopiat will also be tried. Noel Bodepouto is accused of murders committed during the massacre of infants in Bangui in April, 1979. Jules-Lazare Adopiat killed a child by gunshot in Bangassou (eastern part of the country) during street demonstrations in April, 1979.

CHAD

NEW MOVEMENT SEEKS REMOVAL OF LIBYAN TROOPS

AB081344 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Paris, 8 Jul (AFP)--A group of officers from Chad's original regular army, the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT), has set up a National Patriotic Movement (MPN) aimed at getting Libyan forces out of Chad, according to a statement reaching here today.

The statement was signed by Doungous Kimto, a former director of security forces and one-time administrative officer of FAT, who said that he had been named secretary general of the MPN.

The new movement was not and does not intend to become a 13th (political) faction which would oppose the other 12, the statement said. Its aims were simply to be a meeting point for all Chadian patriots, from the south, the centre, the north, east and west, who no longer wish to accept the Libyan yoke and want to take part in a national resistance struggle as some sons of Chad already are doing, the statement said.

MPN appealed for national unity, and warned that if Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's troops are stationed for the time being in the north, it is to enable them to deal better with the south later on. The statement said the south was united with the north and if [words indistinct] friendly and brother countries.

The patriotic movement said that only foreign aid would make it possible for national resistance to be victorious, but first of all Chadians need the will, the determination... which will make our future allies confident. The statement disputed the legality of the Transitional Government of National Union, led by interim President Goukouni Oueddei, and said that the setting up of an integrated army would make it possible for the Libyans to infiltrate the Chadian national army to make it easier to seize administrations in the south when the time comes.

CONGO

VISITING CHAD MINISTER COMMENTS ON SITUATION

AB081455 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The situation in Chad which formed part of the head of state's press conference was the main topic discussed during the audience he granted yesterday evening to Chadian Economy Minister Michel Ngangbet Kosnaye, who is now in Brazzaville to attend the meeting of the board of governors of the Bank of the Central African States. Questioned by (Volo Boubouya), the minister said that he was the bearer of a message from President Goukouni Oueddei to Comrade Sassou-Nguesso.

[Begin recording] [words indistinct]

[Question] What is the present situation in Chad? I mean the economic and political situation.

[Answer] As far as the political situation is concerned, as you have certainly been informed by the Congolese delegation which went to Nairobi, Chad won a great diplomatic success at the OAU summit. I believe, therefore, that considering the conclusions of the OAU summit, Chad will now finally recover [words indistinct]. Concerning the economic situation, as you know, a country which has just emerged from war like my country has many needs to satisfy--immediate as well as short and long-term needs. In this connection, we are going to ask for the assistance of friendly countries in order to try to reconstruct our country's economy.

[Question] How did Chad feel about the 18th OAU summit?

[Answer] Chad approved the summit's decisions. As I have told you, a resolution on Chad cosponsored and prepared by the People's Republic of the Congo and Mauritania was adopted by the heads of state. All the problems now confronting Chad were mentioned in that resolution--questions such as the Libyan presence, the arrival of the neutral forces, the formation of an integrated national army and the reconstruction of the country. What remains now is for the African countries to help us to apply that resolution [words indistinct]. [end recording]

PRESIDENT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN ISSUES

AB081233 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Brazzaville, 8 Jul (AFP)--Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso reaffirmed Tuesday in Brazzaville his country's support for the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] and clearly stated Congo's stands on major African issues and on the international situation.

Congo has recognized the SDAR, and it hopes that the sovereignty of that part of the African Continent will soon be respected by all, President Sassou-Nguesso said at a press conference after his return from the OAU summit in Nairobi.

The Congo will never approve the annihilation and genocide of the Saharan people nor will it ever endorse any dilatory tactics on this issue, the Congolese head of state went on to say, stressing that the OAU and UN decisions on this problem are very clear.

On Namibia, Col Sassou-Nguesso felt that the Namibian people's right to independence should not only be reaffirmed but also guaranteed by stronger and more practical support and commitment from the independent African countries. We are happy that the maneuvers aimed at faking the independence of that country and designed to give it a neocolonialist and pro-imperialist character have been unanimously denounced by the African countries, he added.

With regard to Chad, the Congolese head of state was pleased that the people of Chad are once again on the road to peace, and he felt that African and other countries should contribute to the country's reconstruction.

Referring to the problem of Palestine, President Sassou-Nguesso recalled that Congo has always firmly supported the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people, and he stressed that all attempts at a partial settlement of the conflict which do not take into account the basic interests of these martyred people can only weaken the struggle of the Arab peoples.

Questioned about the French political situation, Col Sassou-Nguesso said that mankind has just experienced a historic moment and that the overwhelming victory of the French left bears testimony to the will of the French people to strive resolutely for a more equitable and more humane society. He added that President Francois Mitterrand's accession to power should give new impetus to relations between France and Congo.

Speaking on the international situation, President Sassou-Nguesso considered that it was rather alarming and that the African Continent is even threatened. This is why, he said, during the OAU summit, Congo launched an appeal to the Western countries telling them that the African Continent senses an impending danger of genocide and calling on them not to forget the millions of African victims of the slave trade and the colonial conquest.

On the world economic situation, Col Sassou-Nguesso recalled President Marien Ngouabi's condemnation in June 1972 during the OAU Rabat assembly of the damaging effect of exclusively vertical cooperation and his plea for horizohtal cooperation, adding that it was time Africa joined its forces to organize its economic future and control its wealth.

In the context of bilateral cooperation with other countries, the Congolese head of state referred to his recent trip to the USSR, during which a treaty of friendship was signed, and to his recent visit to Mozambique.

Finally, at the national level, President Sassou-Nguesso expressed satisfaction with the functioning of the local people's councils and of the party which, he said, is growing stronger and developing throughout the country.

NEW LAW REQUIRES UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE

AB071320 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Text] Brazzaville, Jul 7 (AFP)--The National Assembly of Congo has adopted a law requiring national service of every person reaching the age of majority. President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, in a speech at the close of the assembly session, said the law requires every citizen of legal age to set aside a period of his life to the defense and development of his country. It was not immediately clear whether young Congolese would have an option of military or non-military service under the new law.

RWANDA

BELGIAN MINISTER ENDS VISIT; COMMUNIQUE NOTED

AB082038 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Belgian Foreign Minister Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb left Kigali this afternoon at the end of a 5-day visit to our country. During his visit, he was received in audience by the president of the republic, with whom he discussed bilateral relations.

As was pointed out in the joint communique issued at the end of the visit, the president of the Republic of Rwanda has conferred a national honor on the Belgian minister to mark the excellent relations between our two countries.

Also, the Belgian minister held talks with his Rwandan counterpart, Mr Francois Ngarukiyintwali, on matters of common interest between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Rwanda and on current international political issues.

It is recalled that the joint communique issued in Kigali this morning stressed that both parties had noted with satisfaction the strong privileged relations between their two countries and expressed their firm determination to further strengthen them in the interest of the peoples of Belgium and Rwanda.

The Rwandan foreign minister commended the personnel of the Belgian assistance program for their achievements in Rwanda and expressed gratitude for the financial and technical assistance which Belgium grants Rwanda.

The communique further says that during the visit, the Belgian foreign minister and his Rwandan counterpart signed a loan agreement under which the Belgian Government will grant Rwanda an interest-free loan worth 3 million Belgian francs. The loan will be used to purchase equipment for the rehabilitation of the Kigali-Kanombe Airport.

With regard to international issues, the two parties expressed satisfaction over their identical views on the major world issues. They reaffirmed the attachment of their government to the principles of the UN Charter, especially to people's right to self-determination and independence, as well as noninterference in other states' internal affairs and the use of peaceful means to settle conflicts.

ZAIRE

AZAP SAYS RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM AMBIGUOUS

AB071601 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0920 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Unattributed AZAP commentary: "Belgium-Zaire: Ambiguity Continues"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 6 Jul (AZAP)--When the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic formally called upon Belgium to state its position unequivocally regarding Zairian nationals who reside in Belgium and who have pledged their opposition to the legally constituted government in Kinshasa, one could have thought that the words had the same meaning for everyone. Because it is obvious, at least to us, that these opponents, who are prepared--as they say they are--to assume their responsibilities if freedom were at the end of the gun barrel, were purely and simply calling for armed action against a foreign state and friend of Belgium, in this case, Zaire.

After their equivocal reaction, it appears today that it will always be difficult for us to understand our Belgium partners and for them to understand us. In fact, we understand them only too well: It would suffice to place things in their true perspective to show them as they really are. And this perspective is not one of beautiful speeches following banquets, meetings and enlarged joint committees which merely perpetuate the same old dialogue; it is instead, that represented by our efforts to control our resources and to assume the responsibility of conducting our development according to our own objectives.

What has definitely brought about a strain in relations between the Belgians and ourselves is the taking over of the Upper Katanga Mining Union (UMHK) by Zaire, followed shortly by our policy of Zairianization and radicalization, three decisive moments in the conquest of our economic independence.

We realize that the independence which we seek to consolidate a little more each day does not preclude cooperation dictated by the development and structure by international economic relations and, in these relations, it is perfectly understandable that privileged relations should emerge and be maintained. One should, nevertheless, consider who really stands to gain from such privileged relations and who derives the greatest benefit if they are maintained. In the case of our country's relations with Belgium, their real figures show that it is Belgium which benefits more from cooperation between Kinshasa and Brussels.

It is, therefore, difficult to understand the attitude adopted by Brussels in the deliberate dispute unnecessarily kept alive by it over the criminal intentions of a handful of paranoics who live as refugees there.

What exactly does Belgium want?

We put the question here and we expected a clear and unambiquous answer: It is either cooperation on the basis of respect for our sovereignty--in other words an outright condemnation of the subversive activities of the traitors who are undermining the foundations of this cooperation and the silencing of these traitors--or the breaking off of relations.

We are still waiting for the answer and we do not feel that it has been supplied in the incredible series of ambiguous statements that Brussels has not ceased to make for a week.

Of course, the Belgian prime minister has expressed his country's desire to continue to cooperate on the basis of respect for the principles of equality and noninterference; of course, at the Ministry of Justice, the shady apprentice sorcerer, whom we know, was given a dressing down.

Nevertheless, Zaire considers that the compromise has gone too far to be content with statements that cloud the issue; it expects definite acts and not polished statements, however learned they may be, about the provisions governing the stay of foreigners on Beligan territory. We will judge Belgium's will to maintain and continue cooperation by the concrete action it will take or fail to take in the next few hours.

In our view, the attitude of the policy of Brussels which seeks to destroy us precisely at a time when, thanks to the efforts acknowledged by all, Zaire is obtaining substantial assistance from the World Bank and the IMF to continue its reconstruction.

Like that sculptor of ancient Greece who fell in love with one of his works, Belgium could have been the unconditional support of the efforts made by Zaire to overcome its difficulties; but, unfortunately, indeed unfortunately, it has not been so.

GHANA

REPORTAGE ON EFFORTS TO RESOLVE REGIONAL DISPUTES

GRAPHIC, TIMES Reports

AB081605 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] From the upper region, the GRAPHIC and TIMES move on to the eastern region where hundreds of Krobo settlers have started fleeing their settlements in the Begro area in the eastern region for fear of a possible attack by the indigenous people. This follows an ultimatum to the settlers to leave the place at the latest by last Monday by the Begrohene, Nana Antwi Awua. The chief who confirmed this in an interview with the GHANA NEWS AGENCY at Begro yesterday, said any Krobo settler who had claim over any land in the area should produce the necessary documents on the land.

President Holds Meeting

AB082101 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The Parliamentary committee on local government has appealed to the people of Begoro and the Krobos to exercise restraint over disputed lands to ensure peace in the area. It said the konor [local chief's title] of Manyo Krobo and the okyehene [local chief's title] should bring pressure to bear on their people to maintain peace until the dispute is settled. The Stool Lands Boundary Settlement Commission should expedite proceedings on the dispute to ease tension.

In a preliminary report to Parliament today after investigating the causes of the trouble between the Akims and the Krobos, the chairman of the committee, Mr Dowopkor, said one cause of the conflict is that the Krobos are alleged to be attempting to extend the jurisdiction of the konor of Manya Krobo over land they have bought from the Akims. This the Akims have resisted and the matter is now before the Stool Lands commission.

The second problem is constituency boundary demarcations. Mr Kowokpor said there are certain villages which have been included in the Begoro constituency as well as in the Krobo constituency. According to him, the immediate cause which sparked off the trouble is centered around the village of Ehiamankyene which is occupied by the Krobos. They have refused to be registered in the Begoro constituency.

Meanwhile, the Okyehene, Osagyefo Kuntunkununku, and the konor of Manya Krobo, Nene Azumate Korle, today agreed at a meeting with the president, Dr Limann, to work towards a peaceful solution of the dispute between the Krobos and the people of Begoro.

The meeting held at the insistence of the president was attended by all parties directly involved in the dispute. Addressing the chiefs, the president said the government is concerned about the conflict and urged both parties to settle the dispute peacefully. He told the chiefs that Ghana is one unified state with one common citizenship and no person should say that a Ghanaian anywhere in the country is not in the proper place.

President Limann stressed the need for chiefs to be flexible and adopt new attitudes to customs. He advised them to refrain from actions which in the long run bring hardship to the ordinary people. Dr Limann emphasized that the government has a duty to protect all citizens and it is the moral responsibility of chiefs to assist in this direction.

Nene Azumate Korle thanked the president for his initiative in convening the meeting and assured him that he would lead his people to work towards a peaceful solution to the dispute.

Osagyefo Kuntunkununku also assured the president that his appeal has been taken in good faith. He said this is not the time for conflicts and misunderstanding among Ghanaians and promised to work towards an amicable settlement of the dispute. Present at the meeting were the minister of presidential affairs, Dr Nabila, the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Isaac Chinebuah, and the eastern regional minister, Felix Odoi.

Suspension of Domestic Flights

AB090716 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Jul 81

[Text] The Ghana Air Force has suspended all domestic flights carried out on behalf of Ghana Airways. A statement by the armed forces public relations directorate said this is to enable relief supplies to be airlifted to the north for victims of the civil strife between Nanumbas and Konkombas. The statement said normal flights will resume as soon as the relief operations are over.

PAPER SAYS LEADERS SHOULD ATTEND TRIPOLI SUMMIT

AB081446 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In a second editorial headlined "OAU Summit in Libya: A Must," THE BELIEVER is of the opinion that if African leaders could accept Libya's offer and attend the summit there, it would give them the opportunity to acquaint themselves with events in that country instead of taking hasty decisions merely based on reports that Libya's embassy staff are alleged to be involved in subversive activities in some countries.

IVORY COAST

PARIS TALKS TO FOCUS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

AB081136 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 8 Jul 81

[By Claude Juvenal]

[Text] Abidjan, 8 Jul (AFP)--With the dramatic plunge in world coffee and cocoa prices, and long-awaited oil exports unlikely to become a reality before 1984, Ivory Coast is in desperate economic straits.

Talks in Paris tomorrow between President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and France's new president Francois Mitterrand are likely to hinge on the financial aspect of Franco-Ivorian cooperation and problems created by Ivory Coast's decision not to sign the new international cocoa agreement.

Negotiations at the end of last year with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) produced a conditional IMF loan of 146,000 million CFA francs (about 504 million dollars) spread over three years. But this cash injection apparently proved insufficient, and the Abidjan government has recently had to negotiate two additional loans on the open market at high interest rates.

One is for 275 million dollars from Chase Manhattan, the other for 74,000 million CFA francs (225 million dollars) from a consortium of 48 European banks.

A continuing result of depressed coffee and cocoa prices over the past two years is that once again Ivory Coast finds itself running on a heavily deficit budget.

Government revenue for 1980 was estimated at 618,000 million CFA francs (about 2,120 million dollars), and the budget ran to a 310,000 million franc deficit. This year the deficit is projected to top revenue by some 40 percent.

Economic experts here note that the effects of the slump in world prices for coffee and cocoa were only just beginning to be felt, and the situation was therefore likely to deteriorate even further next year. For example, in next year's projected investment budget of 390,000 million francs (about 1,345 million dollars) only 13,000 million francs will be provided by fiscal receipts, most of which will be required to cover the recurrent budget.

Moreover, the minimum wage has not changed for 18 months, although inflation has been running well over 10 percent annually. The government will be forced to make some kind of gesture on the pay front, certainly for the lowest income group.

The combination of financial difficulties has led to a noticeable slowing down in several sectors, particularly in construction and public works. Many major projects have been either abandoned or delayed, and about 30,000 people, including 2,000 expatriates, are likely to be laid off this year.

Financial circles say that Ivory Coast is waiting for its oil exports to start flowing in three year's time, and has decided to live off credit in the interim, hoping that oil sales will soon solve its problems. And yet no one here can give firm figures for the oil reserves discovered last year, most of them around Jacqueville, to the west of the capital.

In the meantime many economists feel that the government should sign the new cocoa agreement which, when applied, should produce (?fresh) revenue for the country, the world's top cocoa producer with 400,000 tons expected this year. At the moment Ivorian producers are selling their crops at less than the minimum guaranteed by the agreement, at a loss of more than 200 million dollars.

President Houphouet-Boigny has repeatedly expressed opposition [words indistinct] indication that he is about to change his attitude, despite a recent approach on the subject by the European Economic Community.

MALI

CPSU'S USUBALIYEV COMMENTS ON VISIT, DEPARTS

AB081912 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee delegation which has been visiting our country for a week left this morning for Moscow. The delegation was led by Comrade Usubaliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Communist Party of Kirgizia. The Soviet delegation was seen off by Dr Mamadou Dambele, the external relations secretary of the Central Executive Bureau (BEC); Mr N'dai ag Mohamed, member of the BEC; Mr Bouba Diallo, member of Parliament; Mr Cheikh Kabril Sangare, of the Political Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and the Soviet ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Malik Eazylov. The leader of the Soviet delegation, Comrade Usubaliyev, declared to our colleague Sidi Jawara that he was satisfied with the positive results of his visit to Mali:

[Begin recording in Russian fading into translation] Today, the Soviet delegation is leaving Bamako. Yesterday, we signed the joint communique devoted to the results of the CPSU delegation's stay in your beautiful country. We are deeply impressed by the reception given to our delegation by Gen Moussa Traore, the secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian people [UDPM] and president of the Republic of Mali, to whom we had the honor of conveying the best wishes and expressions of friendship and respect for all the people of Mali personally on behalf of Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, the secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

We were moved by the warmth with which Comrade Moussa Traore spoke about our communist party under whose direction the people of our country are successfully building a communist society and are fighting for the consolidation of peace in the whole world. The reception given by Comrade Moussa Traore to the CPSU delegation was, for us, the expression of the traditional friendship which exists between the USSR and Mali.

The expressions of mutual respect between our peoples, especially during our stay in your country, are very vivid and varied.

Our delegation visited the northern, central and southern parts of your country. We held meetings with representatives of the working class, the peasants and the intellectuals. We talked with respected elders who are custodians of the national traditions and with young people who have their eyes turned towards the future. Among our interlocutors were party militants, military men, public and social personalities and qualified specialists. During these meetings, we saw that the people of Mali are industrious and talented people, full of the will to construct a state of national democracy, to create a just and free society and to ensure prosperity for all who work, who defend the sovereignty and independence of their country, who consolidate African unity and who fight for peace in the whole world.

It is a party delegation and this is why we have acquainted ourselves with your party with particular interest. During the visit, which afforded us the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the activities of UDPM, we have come to the conclusion that its role and prestige, after the constituent congress held in February 1979, are becoming stronger and that its prestige among the people is increasing. Your party is still very young but it is strong thanks to a rich tradition of anti-imperialist national liberation struggle. It is strong thanks to its noble aspiration to develop the creative energy of the workers of this country and to raise the conscience of the popular masses who have earlier been oppressed by colonialism. The party is strong through its struggle against all forms of social injustices and the spirit of exploitation. We have seen that the people of Mali support the noble activities of its party.

The CPSU and UDPM are two vanguard political bodies in the struggle for the vital interests of our peoples. This is why it is natural that our two delegations have had fruitful exchanges of experiences and viewpoints on a wide range of problems concerning party delegations, economy and culture.

You well understand that the problem of later development of Soviet-Mali cooperation occupied a very important place in the discussions. We expressed the desire of our Communist Party to develop this cooperation, which is based on the principle of proletarian internationalism and which has brought about the well-being of our people. The problem of the protection and safeguarding of peace in the entire world is the most burning current issue. And on such occasions, in this context, it must be said that lately, everywhere imperialist aggressive activities increase the threat of a possible outbreak of a new world war. This is the reason why, during our talks, we gave special attention to the need for unity and the mobilization of public opinion for the struggle for peace and social progress on all the continents.

I think that in this short speech, I can not enumerate all the problems which are very important and which you already know after having read our joint communique. But it must be said that on all the important issues, there was a complete identity of viewpoints.

Finally, permit me to express once again my satisfaction with the positive results of the meetings of the CPSU and UDPM delegations. There is no doubt that the pursuit of these contacts will contribute to the consolidation of the bonds of friendship which exist between the CPSU and UDPM and between the Soviet and Malian peoples. Representatives of the mass media, kindly transmit to the public circles of your country our warm thanks to the leaders of the Republic of Mali, the Malian people, and to its party, the UDPM, for the invitation of the CPSU delegation and the warm welcome given us during our stay on the beautiful Malian land. We request you to convey to the friendly Malian people and to the members of its party, our friendly greetings, wishes of success and prosperity on behalf of the Soviet party, members of the CPSU and on behalf of Leonid Brezhnev, the secretary general of our party, and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [end recording]

NIGERIA

TIMES CRITICIZES U.S. COMMENT ON OAU VENUE

AB081003 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY TIMES endorses the statement made by the assistant executive secretary of the OAU to the United Nations that the United States has no right to decide for the organization where it holds its meetings. The paper wonders why the United States should comment on decisions made by African heads of state and reminds her of the universal principle of non interference by any nation, however powerful, in the internal affairs of other countries or international organization of which it is not a member. It notes that the Organization of American States has, since its inception, been holding meetings wherever it deems fit without any complaints from African leaders, and questions why the United States should criticize the OAU decision to hold its next summit meeting in Tripoli, in Libya. The TIMES concludes by appealing to the American Government to leave African states alone to run the OAU as they wish.

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

AB071205 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jul 81

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Tuesday, 30 June, was observed in Nigeria as World Energy Day in accordance with a declaration of the United Nations Organization. In the commentary this morning on this program, Robert Dikefe of our current affairs unit writes on the energy day as observed in Nigeria.

Activities marking the event included a symposium on Nigeria's energy option by the year 2000 in which one of the speakers was the vice president himself. There was also a broadcast by the minister for mines and power in which it was announced that Nigeria was giving serious consideration to the acquisition of nuclear technology and that, to this end, 10 million naira has been set aside for research in the relevant sciences during the current plan period. The observation of energy day has again brought into focus the need to formulate a coherent energy policy that takes into account recent trends throughout the world. The most salient point that should be taken care of in the formulation of such a policy should be the conservation of energy, the search for alternative sources of energy besides petroleum and other forms of fuel and the nuclear research program.

The need for such a policy was heavily emphasized by all the speakers at the symposium. Now the most urgent and (?tricky) aspect of the issue relates to the need for energy conservation and the quest for new sources. Priority attention also has to be given to energy conservation in both its domestic and public use as it is common knowledge that the nation's various sources of energy such as petrol, wood, coal, hydro and thermal power are limited and depleting sources of energy. The reduction of these is an important aspect of any energy conservation program. In this regard also, efforts have to be intensified to stop the current flaring of natural gas in many parts of the continent as this constitutes a tragic waste of valuable energy. It is pathetic to note the intermittent shortage of gas for domestic and industrial use in the face of constant wastage of our natural gas. The search for alternative sources of energy is now being accorded deserving attention in most developed and developing countries of the world.

Nigeria has the human and natural resources to be an active participant in this search. In this regard, her (?current) efforts for the development of solar energy have to be intensified. The most pressing aspect of the energy issue concerns the need for Nigeria to acquire nuclear technology. Already, various opposing views have been expressed in the media on the nuclear question. It is true that Nigeria is a signatory to the 1968 international Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. However, it has already been observed that some influential signatories to the same agreement are not really promoting nuclear technology but [words indistinct]. Since Nigeria does not have the capacity to stop this trend, the sensible thing to do is to join the nuclear race. [passage indistinct]

Considering the controversial nature of the development of nuclear technology, the real problem has been the political will to take the decision to embark on research in the relevant sciences. It is, therefore, heartening to hear that the Federal Government has entered into a joint venture with Guinea and Niger Republic for the exploiting of uranium which is an important ingredient in nuclear technology. This, together with the announcement that 10 million naira has been set aside for research purposes gives the impression that Nigeria is [words indistinct] to embark on the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

NPN TO TERMINATE ACCORD WITH NPP IMMEDIATELY

AB081719 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The National Party of Nigeria [NPN] says the termination of its working accord the Nigeria People's Party [NPP] is with immediate effect.

Addressing a news conference today, the national chairman of the NPN, Chief Augustus Akinloye, described the 6 months' notice given by the NPP for the termination of the accord as hypocritical and unnecessary. Chief Akinloye stated that the NPP served the notice, in practice, more than 6 months ago, adding that there was no alternative for the NPN but to accept the termination of the accord forthwith. He said that the charges leveled against the NPN by the NPP clearly reflected the views of those he called opponents of the ruling party with whom the NPP seems to have pitched camp now.

The chairman, therefore, wondered why the NPP should go to the length of leveling unfounded and ill-motivated charges agianst the NPN for the mere reason of breaking the accord. Chief Akinloye pointed out that his party had fulfilled its part of the bargain by appointing ministers, chairmen and directors of parastatals [boards and corporations in charge of some state services] from the NPP. He remarked that his party had been in great doubt about the usefulness of the accord but had only tolerated it because of the responsibilities conferred on it by its prominent position. Chief Akinloye stated that even though the accord died over a year ago, the NPP had continued to reap the fruits of the bargain.

Last Monday, at a news conference in Lagos, the chairman of the NPP, Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, gave 6 months notice for the break of the accord, saying that the NPN was not pursuing the spirit of the pact.

PRP Criticism of NPP

AB081745 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The Anambra State wing of the People's Redemption Party, PRP, has condemned the Nigeria People's Party, NPP, for giving notice to abrogate its accord. In a statement issued in Enugu yesterday, the PRP said that since the NPP claimed that the accord stood for peace, stability and unity of the country, the decision to break it meant that the NPP has joined those who have vowed to plunge the country into another crisis. The statement, which was signed by the first publicity secretary, Mr Chris Okoro, added that by pulling out of the accord, the NPP was becoming more interested in destabilizing the country.

NPN Expectations

AB081832 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] Lagos, 8 Jul (AFP)--The ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) today said it expected all ministers from its coalition Nigerian People's Party (NPP) partner along with the deputy president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives to resign immediately following yesterday's announcement by the NPP that it was breaking off its agreement with the NPN.

This is the path of honour, the national news agency quoted NPN National Chairman Chief Adisa Akinloye as saying at a news conference. The chief said the NPN would waive the six months notice required under the 21-month agreement that has given President Shehu Shagari's party a working majority in parliament.

Chief Akinloye said the NPN accepts the notice of termination with immediate effect. He read out a letter he sent to NPP National Chairman Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya in reply to the announcement that the NPP was pulling out of the pact saying that the only thing the NPN gained from the accord was the election of the Senate president.

Since then we received only open confrontation from your party, despite our fulfilling our part of the bargain in the appointment of ministers, chairmen and directors from the NPP, the letter added. I said the accord died almost a year ago and that the NPP had been the only beneficiary.

The NPP said it was abandoning the pact because the NPN had refused to honour it and had displayed fascist tendencies and breach of the constitution.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE URGES CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

AB081820 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The Nigerian judicial consultative committee has urged the National Assembly to amend certain sections of the constitution. One of them deals with the establishment of consolidated funds, salaries and allowances of the judiciary as well as areas of the recurrent expenditure for judicial officers in the state. Another section relates to the removal of judicial officers from office and those on the interpretation of the constitution.

A Voice of Nigeria National Assembly correspondent reports that President Shehu Shagari has been duly informed of the move.

SENEGAL

REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT'S WORKING VISIT TO FRG

For DPA reportage on President Abdou Diouf's 2-day working visit to the FRG, including a report on a news conference in which Diouf says Senegal will attend the 1982 OAU summit in Tripoli only if Al-Qadhdhafi changes his policy, see page J 2 of the FRG section of the 7 July Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO REPORTS LANDING OF MIG-17 IN SOUTH AFRICA

EA081854 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] The Mozambique Air Force General Staff has announced that a Mozambique aircraft has landed in South African territory after being intercepted by South African aircraft. In a communique issued late this afternoon, the Air Force General Staff stated that at 0945 today a MiG-17 fighter aircraft, No (?021), of the People's Air Force of Mozambique piloted by Lt Adriano Francisco Bomba on a training flight, was intercepted by South African jet fighters and landed at the Hoedspruit Airbase in Transvaal. The communique concludes by saying that the Air Force is investigating the causes behind this incident.

ZAMBIA

SOVIET ENVOY COMMENTS ON REAGAN, NAMIBIA

CA080916 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Jul 81

[Text] Outgoing Soviet ambassador to Zambia Vasiliy Solodovnikov said in Lusaka today that the coming to power of American President Ronald Reagan has not affected prospects for national liberation in southern Africa as there was (?small) difference between Republicans and Democrats. The ambassador, who returns home tonight, said the accession to power by Mr Reagan will not delay the independence of Namibia despite the widely-held belief to the contrary. He said American policy on southern Africa has hardly changed since the new administration took over from former President Jimmy

ZIMBABWE

FINANCE MINISTER ISSUES WARNING TO IAN SMITH

LD081307 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Jul 81

[Text] A senior minister in the Zimbabwean Government has warned former prime minister Mr Ian Smith that he would be liable to be held in detention or deported to South Africa if he continues making what the minister called alarmist statements. The finance minister, Senator Ends Nkala, said Mr Smith should cease causing alarm and despondency among the white community or he could be thrown out of Zimbabwe. The minister also dismissed claims that inflation was running at more than 20 percent a year and that the economy was being mismanaged. He added that Mr Smith was undermining the policy of reconciliation, which was not intended for Mr Smith but for the whites he had duped over the years.